

LÄSIONEN PERIPHÄRER NERVEN. Diagnostik und Therapie.

By M. Mumenthaler and H. Schliack. (Pp. xii + 348; 173 figures; 19 tables. DM.68.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag, 1965.

Clinical neurologists expect to be able to define and localize any lesion of a peripheral nerve. In peace-time practice, however, many nerve lesions are only seen rarely, and for any clinician who wishes to perfect his methods and knowledge of peripheral nerve diseases and injuries this is a wonderfully comprehensive work of reference. The methods of testing the strength of each muscle are clearly illustrated and Table 8 (p. 164) deserves special mention, for here are displayed on one sheet the muscles of the upper extremity which are involved in every variety of peripheral nerve or plexus injury: a most ingenious presentation. The therapeutic problems receive relatively little attention, but from the surgical point of view the use of millipore in the bridging of gaps in a nerve is referred to.

W. RITCHIE RUSSELL

ARTERIAL DISEASE By J. R. A. Mitchell and C. J. Schwartz.

(Pp. xv + 411; illustrated. 95s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications.

This book is a monument of careful observation and patient industry. The authors have made a necropsy study of the heart and major arteries in 293 unselected patients aged 35 years and over and in selected series with large areas of cardiac necrosis or scarring and diabetes. In addition they have studied the aorta in 43 patients aged 15 to 34. They have described with meticulous care the morphology, localization, and correlation between the different types of arterial lesions in various sites with special emphasis on the aorta and on the coronary and carotico-vertebral arteries. The same care has been given to the study of the lesions found in the heart in ischaemic disease. The lesions are illustrated by high quality photomicrographs and the results tabulated in a large number of tables and histograms. This part of the book will remain as a standard work of reference for a long time to come.

Unfortunately, other parts of the work do not attain the same standard of excellence. The discussion of the mechanism of transient ischaemic attacks is far too brief and superficial to be of real value. The chapter on therapy is likewise inadequate; for example, in the section on anticoagulant therapy in transient focal cerebral attacks only one reference is given and no mention is made of the two controlled clinical trials of the Veterans Administration and the United States Public Health Service.

Despite these blemishes in the later sections the excellence of the earlier part of the book, which describes the original pathological work of the authors, makes it necessary reading for all interested in arterial disease.

CEREBRAL ISCHEMIA By G. E. Simonson and T. H.

McGavack. (Pp. xx + 299; illustrated. \$11.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1964.

This is the report of a symposium presented to the American Gerontological Society at Miami Beach. A wide range of topics is covered including haemodynamics, the electroencephalogram in cerebral ischaemia, rheo-

encephalography, and ophthalmodynamometry. Some contributions have attempted too much, as in one chapter which covers anatomy, pathology, symptomatology, dietary considerations, blood clotting, spasm, collateral circulation, etc., with the result that of necessity the treatment is superficial.

The chapter on anticoagulants is particularly good, being a careful and conscientious review of the present situation as indicated by the literature, but the contribution on cerebral ischaemia in pulmonary disease, which might well have been of great interest, is somewhat disappointing as it is limited to less than four pages.

LA PSYCHOPATHOLOGIE EXPÉRIMENTALE By F. H. Baruk. (Pp. 127. 4s. 3d.) Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1964.

This little book for the general reader provides a readable introduction to a number of topics in experimental psychopathology. Those most fully treated are experimental catatonia and certain aspects of psychopharmacology. Other chapters on experimental neuroses, on behaviour and initiative in animals and men, and on the problems of experiment in psychopathology are either rather skimpy or rather diffuse. The medical practitioner who wants a simple concise introduction to these important fields of research will probably find it better elsewhere.

BIOLOGICAL CLOCKS IN MEDICINE AND PSYCHIATRY By C. P. Richter. (Pp. viii + 109; 103 figures. \$6.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1965.

In these lectures Dr. Richter has put together in concise and handy form his findings and those of others, on the numerous periodicities of function which may be detected in healthy and, even more, in diseased animals and men. Whether each and every one of these, as it arises, should be taken as evidence for a 'clock' mechanism is hardly discussed and no consideration is given to the possibility of deriving one periodicity from another, or others in combination. Richter's own view is that periodicities which emerge only in morbid states represent a coming into synchrony of the responsible aggregate of cells, and this is a reversal of an evolutionary trend whereby the organism is progressively freed from the tyranny of primitive cyclic tendencies. He has, however, kept speculation to a minimum and the book is packed with fascinating data for the reader to brood on. It will be of interest to a very wide group of people.

CORRECTION

In the paper by J. G. McLeod (*J. Neurol. Neurosurg. Psychiat.*, 1966, 29, 12) the phrase, 'and recordings were made in turn from each of the three electrodes' which appears in the first sentence, fifth paragraph, of the section on Methods, has been wrongly placed. It should be in the second sentence, fifth paragraph, which should read, 'A condenser discharge of time constant 50 μ sec. derived from a thyratron stimulator was applied to electrodes at the wrist and recordings were made in turn from each of the three electrodes with reference to a fourth electrode applied to the tip of the finger; the subject was earthed through the metal plate on the back of the hand.'