mainly what this book is about, is not commonly a serious one in neurosurgical patients, and only rarely is it encountered in those with head injury who receive water, salt, and sustenance on a basis only of sensible empiricism, helped by fluid-intake-output charts, electrolyte and urea estimations, and, above all, by a knowl-
dge of the normal pattern of metabolic response to 
surgery and injury. Dr. Wise gives the sound warning 
that "the administration of water to the post-operative 
patient is the factor most directly under the surgeon's 
control, and one that requires maximum caution", but 
he seems more reluctant than many of us are in this 
country to make an early change from the intravenous 
route to the more physiological one of the naso-gastric 
tube. We are left a little in the air during the chapters on 
hypo- and hypertonicity (these ambiguous words are, 
of course, used here in relation to natraemia and the osmo-
larity of the blood and not to neuromuscular activity). 
In practice, it may be very difficult to know how much 
importance to attach to the symptoms and signs attrib-
tuted to these states, which can be clinically similar not 
only to one another but also to the underlying brain 
disorder, to blood circulatory dysfunction, and to post-
 operative 'cerebral oedema' which, to get back where we 
started, may itself be an effect of hypotonicity. 

When Dr. Wise has had no experience of something, 
he says so, and this is refreshing; but it will perhaps 
disappoint neurosurgeons not to find more information 
about two of their more vexed problems. I should have 
liked to have seen much more about brain swelling, and 
and expected to be able to read the author's views on the 
place, if any, of steroids in the treatment of this compi-
lation; but space in this commendably concise book is 
precious, and I hope that we may have later from the 
same pen the critical and authoritative account which is 
badly needed. His book, however, is the only one of its 
kind, and neurosurgeons will be grateful that Dr. Wise 
has filled this gap in the literature of their speciality. 

JOHN POTTER

PROGRESSIVE PARALYSIS By Wilhelm Zeh. (Pp. viii + 
199; 20 figures, 5 tables. DM. 45.) Stuttgart: Georg 
Thieme Verlag. 1964.

Relatively little has in recent years been written on 
neurosyphilis. The monograph under review is welcome 
for its exhaustive treatment of general paralysis of the 
insane, not so much for the description of the clinical 
syndrome, which has been well documented, as for the 
wealth of information on the outcome of ancillary 
investigations during the course of the disease and its 
treatment. The author, Professor of Neurology at Bonn, 
in a final section develops psychophysical correlates into 
a psychiatric philosophy, a theoretical exercise of less 
interest to British readers.

M. KINSBOURNE

THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF MEDICINE, ANNUAL REVIEWS 1965. 
British Postgraduate Medical Federation. (Pp. ix + 
344; illustrated. 40s.) University of London: The 
Athlone Press. 1965.

This volume reports 19 lectures delivered under the 
auspices of the British Postgraduate Medical Federation 
during 1963 and 1964. These are thus authoritative reviews 
presented in a relatively simple form.

THE ESSENTIALS OF FORENSIC MEDICINE, 2nd ed. Revised. 
By C. J. Polson. (Pp. xvi + 600; 153 figures. 105s.) 

This textbook will be welcomed as an enlarged and 

improved second edition of a successful treatise on forensic 
medicine. Professor Polson, in his prefaces, declares that 
his primary aim was a text for medical undergraduates 
and for them, despite size and price, the book remains 
eminently suitable. It will also be of value to a much wider 
reading public including, despite the author's disclaimer, 
specialists in forensic medicine who will turn to this 
work for reference. The price reflects the size of the book 
and the number of the illustrations, most of which are 
excellent.

AN INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHIATRY, 3rd ed. By Max 
Livingstone. 1965.

This small book is a good introduction to psychiatry, 
particularly as practised in the United Kingdom. It 
attends not only to the main clinical categories of 
psychiatric disorder, but also to the administrative and 
legal aspects of psychiatric practice which must impinge 
on almost all those engaged in psychiatry within the 
National Health Service. This is the third edition of the 
work in 10 years which speaks for itself. The present 
edition appears up to date both in its basic clinical 
thinking and in the legal and social implications of the 
Mental Health Act of 1959. Within its compass of 320 
pages it covers briefly all the main aspects of psychiatry, 
and if readers pursue even a quarter of the references 
given to each chapter they will be well-informed about 
modern psychiatric thought. It concludes with a number 
of case interviews or case histories exemplifying typical 
clinical conditions. These are valuable practical additions; 
indeed, the whole work is essentially a practical manual.
It can be recommended as an introduction for students 
and a useful stand-by for general practitioners.

PSYCHOSOMATIC RESEARCH A Collection of Papers By 
J. J. Groen and others. (Pp. x + 318; illustrated. 80s.) 

Psychosomatic medicine in one sense is all medicine. It is 
used increasingly in a specialized sense to mean the effect 
of emotion, especially chronic emotion, on states of 
body health. Even in this sense it is a major part of 
medical practice. The present volume reviews research in 
this field carried out largely in a centre in Amsterdam. 
It covers the three main fields of psychosomatic interest 
in the past decade or two: asthma, gastrointestinal disease, 
and cardiovascular, especially hypertensive, disease. To 
these are added some more theoretical papers.

The report of leucotomy and psychotherapy as a 
successful treatment for a case of essential hypertension 
with an adequately lengthy follow-up is of much theoretical 
and practical interest, especially in view of Russian 
reports of conditioning therapy in this condition.
The book is a valuable record of the work of a group 
largely inspired by Professor Groen, and can be recom-
**Book reviews**

The authors criticize much of the research which has been carried out in this field and emphasize the need for more and better projects, but they do not put forward any ideas for future investigation.

In conclusion, some points are made in this text which, although not new, may be of value to practical workers in this field, but on the whole the book seems to be aimed much at those wishing to set up remedial reading clinics in the U.S.A.

Moyra Williams

**BOOKS RECEIVED**

(Review in a later issue is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.)


The title of this book raises hopes that it will fill a great need in many countries, but unfortunately its contents are so orientated to the American way of health that there is not a great deal in it to interest those living outside the U.S.A.

The first part deals with the distinction between primary (i.e., congenital) and secondary reading disabilities, describing the symptoms usually associated with each. These are largely repeated in the second section, which goes further into the diagnostic differentiation and describes briefly some remedial techniques. The third section is devoted to describing and evaluating the reading clinics in the United States.

Great emphasis is laid throughout on the importance of studying and treating each case on its own merits; of eliciting the difficulties each person has and the cues to which he responds most readily. As a result of this, the careful distinction made between primary and secondary disabilities becomes a little blurred and seems to lose a lot of its value. Moreover, the text is inclined to leap from evaluation to treatment and back again so often that it is not always easy to follow.


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The author has written a comprehensive book on medical theory and practice, which is aimed at medical students and practitioners. It covers a wide range of topics, from the history of medicine to the latest developments in clinical practice. The book is well-organized and easy to follow, making it a valuable resource for anyone interested in the field of medicine.


