

Book reviews

ESSENTIALS OF NEUROLOGY 2nd ed. By J. N. Walton. (Pp. xix + 435; illustrated. 35s.) London: Pitman. 1966.

The first edition of this book appeared in 1961. The author presents in 10 readable chapters the cardinal clinical features of disorders of the nervous system, the general principles of diagnosis and methods of investigation. There follow nine chapters devoted to concise descriptions of specific disorders. Treatment is dealt with in the final chapter which the reviewer found in every way up to date and thoughtful. It seems a sensible way of dealing with what there is of therapy in neurology.

The most obvious feature of the book is that the author has managed to condense his material without sacrificing style and presentation. Indeed it is packed full of information and reads pleasantly. It is free of the outmoded notions and references which sometimes clutter and overload older neurological textbooks. It may be recommended to the student seeking an introduction to neurology. There are ample guides to further reading. For thirty-five shillings it is very good value.

One minor criticism: on pages 27 and 158 a description is given of the Babinski reflex response. It is said that this is characterized by dorsiflexion of the great toe and plantar flexion and fanning-out of the other toes. This may well confuse the student, because he may deduce that reflex dorsiflexion of the great toe was not, by itself, enough to warrant the use of the term. Abduction or fanning of the other toes is by no means constant. Generations of students have found difficulty in interpreting what they observe on stroking the sole of the human foot, in health and disease. But there should not now be confusion about what actually constitutes the Babinski response.

J. D. SPILLANE

MALFORMATIONS ASSOCIÉES DE LA TÊTE ET DES EXTRÉMITÉS

By P. Tridon and M. Thiriet. (Pp. iv + 230; 26 figures. F.40) Paris: Masson et Cie. 1966.

This monograph gives a good clinical account of the various syndromes involving associated malformations of the skull, face, eyes, and limbs. Chapters on the embryology of the limbs and on experimental teratology are included.

The book may be recommended as a book of reference to paediatricians and to specialists in mental deficiency who are likely to encounter these rare conditions and whose duty it is to label them correctly.

The photographs are good and there are nearly 500 references.

R. M. NORMAN

ADVANCES IN TERATOLOGY Vol. 1. Edited by D. H. M. Woollam. (Pp. 297; illustrated. 100s.) London: Logos Press and Academic Press. 1966.

This is the first volume in a new annual series devoted to

the study of foetal monsters and disorders in structural organization. Penrose discusses the cause of Down's syndrome and Lyon gives an interesting account of X-chromosome inactivation in mammals and the mosaic theory which already appears to have relevance in muscular dystrophy and must be considered in the so-called abiotrophies of the nervous system. There are also reviews of the teratogenic effect of viruses, azo dyes, ionizing radiation, and drugs. An interesting account of immunological aspects of developmental biology by Brent makes it clear that antigen-antibody reactions may be important in normal embryogenesis. The book is well produced but it has little for the neurologist. It is a useful source book for those with special interests such as the experimental production of meningocele and similar deformities.

J. A. SIMPSON

LE SOMMEIL DE NUIT, NORMAL ET PATHOLOGIQUE: ÉTUDES ÉLECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHIQUES Society for Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology of the French Language. (Pp. 391; illustrated. F.85) Paris: Masson et Cie. 1965.

Perhaps because of its apparent simplicity in health electroencephalography has tended to be ignored by physiologists, and in consequence it has developed largely as an aid to diagnosis, in particular of epilepsy. 'Sleep' recordings are very commonly taken but to no other end than the immediate diagnostic problem. That during natural sleep in the healthy a number of different 'patterns' could be observed was an early observation, but this was exploited as a measure of 'depth' of sleep rather than as of interest in its own right. As so often happens, a critical observation was long ago available but ignored (Klaue, 1937) and awareness of the scientific interest of E.E.G. phenomena in sleep essentially relates to the past dozen years.

This volume begins with a characteristically matter-of-fact introduction by Fischgold and an excellent chapter on recent observations on the physiology of sleep by Jouvet, whose own contribution to the advance of this subject has been second to none. A large part of this chapter is devoted to 'paradoxical' sleep (Jouvet lists 23 synonyms for this state at the end of the chapter, and, as he says, the list is incomplete) the main phenomena of which appear to relate to the pontine level of brain function. The interesting changes in proportion and periodicity of paradoxical sleep from one section of the vertebrate phylum to another and with development from the newborn mammal to the adult are also described. Several chapters follow on sleep in the premature and normal newborn child and in the young and old adult (the association between rapid eye movements and dreams appears to persist beyond the 100th year), others on various 'polygraphic' studies and one (by Oswald) on depth of sleep. The section on 'normal' sleep concludes