
This book is undoubtedly a mine of information and Dr. Schettler is to be congratulated in marshalling this team of experts for the production of what must surely become the standard reference book on the biochemistry of lipids and the biochemical, clinical, and pathological manifestations of the lipidoses for many years to come. It is however very much a reference book, certainly not for bedside reading; the frequent interruption of the text with lists of authors' names makes reading unnecessarily difficult and would have been best replaced by a numbered reference system. Even more difficult however is the use of initial letter abbreviations as those working outside this specialized field will surely find: GD, TSD, NPD, NPC, ML, HAP, and NANA, to select but a few at random, will constantly interrupt his train of thought while he makes a search for the meaning of the latest abbreviation.

The first half of the book on the biochemistry and physiology of the lipids is very much for the specialist, but the section on the lipidoses comprising some 360 pages of closely packed text will be of more general interest covering the clinical, biochemical, and therapeutic aspects of the hereditary disorders of lipid metabolism (but excluding for some obscure reason the syndrome of total lipodystrophy). The therapeutic implications are of unrelieved gloom and indeed these must be among the most depressing of inborn errors of metabolism for the clinician to manage; some of the names of these diseases are additionally unfortunate and the effect on parents can be imagined when they are told first that their child has a rapidly progressive disease and secondly that it is 'amaurotic family idiocy', AFI. Now that so much is known about the lipidoses one can only hope that this will eventually lead to more hopeful lines of work on the problems of management and perhaps a more logical approach to nomenclature.

The book is well produced, though the amount of text on each page is a little formidable. At the end of each chapter is an extensive bibliography.

J. M. WALSH


The authors have not attempted to consider all the techniques employed in anaesthesia for neurosurgery, but have confined themselves to discussing in detail the methods currently in use at the Montreal Neurological Institute. This they have done with clarity and the result, although not comprehensive, is stimulating, instructive, and of value to the postgraduate student. Hyperventilation is favoured in most situations; refinements in technique are described and great stress placed on meticulous attention to detail. The controversial use of the sitting position and controlled respiration for posterior fossae explorations will arouse interest—particularly the view that the E.C.G. tracing is of comparable value to respiratory monitoring in the early recognition of interference to the vital centres. The section on the physiological and pharmacological principles involved in neuro-anaesthesia is informative. The numerous references are well chosen and commendably few errors are present in the text, though the suggestion (pages 125 and 126) that cortisone can be administered intravenously is misleading.

W. N. C. MCCLERY


This volume contains papers given at a meeting of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, Miami, Florida, November 1964. Apart from three short papers read by their guest of honour, Dr. E. A. Kahn, the volume is devoted to head injuries. Practically every aspect of this subject is covered by writers of international repute and, though many are short and therefore necessarily superficial, this collection of papers must form an authoritative statement of opinion current at that time. Though the meeting was more than two years ago there has been little major advance since then. Inevitably there is some overlap, though this is minimal and generally serves to emphasize the unanimity of present-day opinion on the management of these cases. The level of treatment is also variable and some chapters are little more than textbook treatments of their subject, while others set a higher standard. The chapters on the non-surgical treatment of injuries and on cerebrospinal fluid rhinorrhoea by Mr. Walpole Lewin, on metabolic changes by Dr. R. A. McLaurin, on angiography by Dr. M. A. Schechter, and on penetrating injuries by Dr. A. M. Meirowsky could be selected for special mention.

BRODIE HUGHES


Mr. Oliver has been concerned with the surgical treatment of Parkinsonism for many years so that it is not surprising that over half of this small monograph is devoted to this particular aspect of the subject. He begins with a brief historical review and discusses the clinical features and medical treatment. He then reviews the various forms of operation which have been tried, from excision of the motor cortex to the more recent stereotaxic procedures. He describes in some detail the method he himself uses, and discusses his results and the possible complications. For the general practitioner or the general physician the detailed description of the surgical technique may not hold any great interest and the practising neurosurgeon might well not find enough information here for his needs. Leaving the question of technique aside, however, the physician with little experience of the subject will be able to discover what surgery may offer his patient with Parkinsonism.


The exploration of brain mechanisms in man by stereo-
tacit procedures is one of the most startling developments of recent cerebral research. These may have important therapeutic possibilities which are being slowly explored, especially by French surgeons. This magnificent Atlas seems to provide a very valuable guide to workers in this field, for it shows how to locate not only the basal ganglia and other structures of interest in the treatment of Parkinsonism, but it guides the surgeon to every tract, gyrus, or sulcus he may wish to explore. This therefore represents a further development in the presentation of stereotactic anatomy.


This publication describes the existing arrangements in Germany for the treatment of severe skull and brain injuries.


These two volumes provide a variety of further evidence on aspects of trans-cultural psychiatry, a field of inquiry that is yielding information with important bearings on general psychiatric theory. Wulff contrasts the clinical features of psychiatric illnesses in Vietnam and in Europe, and relates these chiefly to the extended and restricted family structure. Vahia reports that in India the types of mental illness are similar to those found in the West, and that industrialization is bringing an increase in their prevalence. Pfeiffer finds the same in Indonesia, emphasizing the increase particularly in the neuroses when the traditional way of life is broken down. Barahona-Fernandes et al. compare the findings in Macao, Mozambique, and Angola with those in Portugal; obsessional neurosis and depression are less frequent overseas, whereas florid atypical psychoses, probably reactive in nature, are more common. Fisher and Hurst give a valuable account of attitudes to mental health in Bantu-speaking in-patients (non-psychiatric) at Johannes- burg, whose judgements of the presence of psychiatric abnormality corresponded closely with Western notions, though witchcraft was still considered important both in aetiology and treatment. The Jileks find Western psychiatric categories applicable in the natives of Tanganyika and give case histories of six patients, including a schizophrenic who continued to improve until 'we ran out of our phenothiazine samples'. They also provide evidence that the increase in anxiety with acculturation is leading to an increase in recourse to witchcraft and sorcery, and they provide an answer to the question 'Why does one become a medicine man' in the following terms: 'Family tradition is an important factor in the vocational choice. Other motives are: personal inclination to guide and assist people; expectation of attaining prestige and influence in society; anticipation of material gain and of climbing up the social ladder. There is also often the deeply felt need of having access to secret knowledge, and to be better equipped to deal with the spirits' world in order to protect oneself and one's kin against threatening powers'—motives resembling those attributed to students of psychiatry and psychology.

Miller gives preliminary information about the relative prevalence of psychiatric disorders in various ethnic groups in Israel, unfortunately not as yet adjusted for age. Other contributors report from Italy, Bulgaria, and South America.

These widespread reports show a remarkable degree of agreement; that the categories adopted by Western psychiatry are applicable in all areas, that culture influences the content rather than the form displayed in mental illness, that obsessional neurosis and depression are rare in primitive cultures, with a reciprocal increase in florid psychoses coloured by confusion, and that neuroses rather than psychoses become more frequent with acculturation. The investigations reported in these two volumes are full of interest; the difficulties overcome in the collection of the data must have been enormous, and the findings are correspondingly important.

R. T. C. PRATT


In these two volumes the junior staff of the Maudsley Hospital have brought together and edited 34 papers by Professor Sir Aubrey Lewis. In so doing they have not only paid him a handsome professional tribute; they have also earned the gratitude of their senior colleagues who can now find easy access to the thinking of the most searching mind among the psychiatrists of this generation.

The papers fall naturally into five sections: clinical psychiatry, social psychiatry, history, education, and formal addresses. They enable the reader to appreciate the depth of Lewis's own contributions to the psychiatric literature. In addition, they illustrate the clarity of analysis and the critical evaluations which he has brought to the larger issues raised by his discipline. To read the paper on Freud or on psychosomatic medicine or on philosophy and psychiatry will help explain why, in the editors' words, ' . . . the healthy development of psychiatry, in Britain and abroad, has owed much to his guidance and encouragement'.

The bibliography spanning 40 years shows what has had to be omitted. Since Sir Aubrey's retirement is proving characteristically productive we may surely hope for a further volume containing new as well as old papers. It would be gratefully received by students, teachers, and practitioners of psychological medicine wherever the subject receives serious attention.


This volume collects most of what is known about the hallucinogens and will certainly prove to be a valuable