to many—assimilated with his own. This is followed by a tabulation of the clinical and pathological data on 150 cases, and assorted comments on these; then a chapter on the clinical (including EEG) manifestations; and a selection of detailed case reports, including ‘fringe’ cases—an essential part of the study of a disease the causes and nature of which are unknown.

A final chapter on the neuropathological aspects of the disease includes recent biochemical and electron-microscopical studies, but was written before the demonstration that at least one form of the disease can be transmitted to experimental animals. The author discourses, and appears to reject, the distinction between Jakob-Creutzfeldt disease and subacute spongiform encephalopathy; but his own views on whether he is dealing with one disease or several are not very clear. Through most of the book, he writes as if he were dealing with a single disease, with variable manifestations, in some ways related to other diseases—for instance, motor neurone disease—but at the end he italicizes the conclusion that ‘J-C disease is not a unified disease concept’.

The book will be a very valuable work of reference for many years to come. Blemishes include the use of a rather peculiar jargon, which makes many passages difficult to understand; and the grand tabulation of cases contains some errors of fact, of which the reader must beware.

D. R. OPPENHEIMER


The third edition of this well-known text has been edited and revised by Dr. Bryan Matthews. The textual alterations have been quite extensive and some new material has been included, though the total length is only slightly increased. Several new illustrations have been added and old ones removed. The section on convulsions has been revised and appears as a separate chapter headed ‘Epilepsy and Loss of Consciousness’, surely a retrograde step, for Gordon Holmes often stressed that epileptic attacks were merely one form of involuntary movement and that to consider ‘epilepsy’ as a disease *sui generis* was dangerous in the clinical field. A short new chapter on neurology in children has been added, though this contains little information which could not have been scattered judiciously among the text.

Dr. Matthews has done his revision well, and this remains an excellent introduction to neurology for the clinical student. The changes have, inevitably, removed some of the highly original style of Gordon Holmes and many older readers will regret this. Nonetheless, some of the material in the first edition would now be misleading or frankly incorrect, and one could hardly expect an undergraduate to identify these areas. The dilemma as to whether to modernize the text or leave it as a ‘period piece’ must have been hard to resolve. Many people will agree, however, that Gordon Holmes’s approach to the subject has so much to commend it that it was justifiable to make a modernized text available to the present-day student. The first edition will continue to be read by those, now rapidly decreasing in numbers, who knew or worked with the author, but I would hope that this edition will be read by most medical students and not only those interested in neurology.

BRODIE HUGHES


This monograph is based on the histological examination of the brains of 65 human foetuses ranging in size from 13 to 38 cm crown-heel length, which corresponds to a gestational age of 14 to 32 weeks. The material consists of 56 ‘spontaneous’ abortions (the number of pregnancies artificially interfered with was not known), four therapeutic abortions, and two foetuses removed from the uterus after the mother’s death. The first section contains some observations on the normal development of the brain during the stated period. The striking pathological finding is the frequency of intracerebral haemorrhages of various sizes and locations which were found in 61 cases. The author found it difficult to distinguish pathological changes in nerve cells from autolytic change and cellular pathology is not, therefore, described in any detail discussed. The author surmises that a foetus may survive a cerebral haemorrhage contracted in utero and that the destruction of tissue may result in what looks like a congenital malformation. The pathogenesis of these haemorrhages remains obscure and it is not clear whether they arise before or after delivery. No light has been thrown on the causes of abortion. Nevertheless the monograph is of interest because so few investigations of this kind have been undertaken.

S. J. STRICH


The well-known Thomas Monographs vary greatly in quality, but this is one of the very best, and can be warmly recommended. A difficult subject has been handled with skill, good judgement, and clarity. Only a gifted and astute clinician could have succeeded in producing such a helpful and comprehensive study.


This volume has been prepared as a tribute by over 40 neurologists from all parts of the world to Herr Professor Dr. Georg Schaltenbrand on the occasion of his 70th birthday. Most of the articles are in English and some are of great interest.


If this volume is really an up-to-date account of current work, it is disappointing to find that the brilliant Russian
Neurophysiological School of Pavlov is not really keeping up with current scientific advances in regard to brain mechanisms. It is astonishing, for example, to find so little reference to the exciting discoveries in recent years with regard to the physiology of memory.


French neurologists seem to have special skills in relation to the identification of the clinical syndrome caused by the obstruction of each small artery in the brain. This book will be found a useful work of reference for the clinician who wishes to localize the lesion precisely.


This collection of conference papers has no coherent framework, but it does include interesting experimental work on the effects of surgical excision or ECS on animals, and theoretical discussions of memory processes. The biochemical section is for the specialist, but the volume is possibly of more value to those psychiatrists who are concerned with the physiological basis of behaviour.


This volume reports the proceedings of the Fourth International Meeting of Neurobiologists held in Stockholm in September 1966. Over fifty papers are reported.

As the neurological study of oral sensation is a somewhat neglected feature of the clinic, this collection of chapters should arouse considerable interest. For example, neurologists will learn with interest how to test oral stereognosis or how to appreciate the oral manifestations of dysdiadochokinesis.


This new journal of neurology is the continuation of Section B of Psychiatria et Neurologia (previously Monatsschrift für Psychiatrie und Neurologie). This will be published in English and aims 'to develop into a forum for all the neurologists of Europe'. There will be six issues in each year.


This well-known introduction to neurology was first published in 1941 by F. Laubenthal and is now in this eighth edition, revised by a neurologist of a later generation. Attempts to modernize old textbooks are seldom very successful and it might have been better for Dr. Schlack to write a new book entirely by himself. Nevertheless, this is well done and the volume will continue to be popular.


Most neurologists find the vestibular system to be a puzzling affair and they will find this report of the Transactions of an International Symposium to be most helpful.


Professor Dorothy Russell's work on hydrocephalus is well known to neurologists and was published in 1949 as a Special Report to the Medical Research Council. It has been out of print for 10 years, but in response to a persistent demand has now been reprinted with an additional later paper on hydrocephalus included as an appendix. This will be very welcome as the work is of great importance to all who deal with these problems.

DIE THALIDOMID-POLYNEURITIS By Ellen Gibbels. (Pp. vii + 140; 4 figures, 47 tables. DM 27.00.) Georg Thieme: Stuttgart. 1968.

Many practitioners regret that the alarming embryopathy caused by thalidomide in pregnant women led to the withdrawal of a valuable hypnotic drug for others. It is, however, probable that its popularity would soon have waned as the prevalence of peripheral neuropathy became more widely appreciated. A remarkable number of publications on this aspect, mainly German and British, testify to the importance of this toxic effect. Unfortunately, the recent upsurge of interest in the...
detailed pathogenesis of neuropathies came when the drug was withdrawn from general use. In this short monograph the author has gathered together the extensive literature about the clinical features of the predominantly sensory neuropathy. The discussion on pathogenesis and histopathology is an abstract of opinions expressed by various authors, but does not add new material or reach satisfactory conclusions. Most workers postulate an enzyme block or competitive inhibition of a B-group vitamin, but final proof is absent.

Even the question whether the lesion is a primary neuronal degeneration or segmental demyelination is undecided. Toxicologists still studying thalidomide with newer methods will find this a useful summary of the literature, but it is now of only historical interest to clinicians.

J. A. SIMPSON

BRITISH MEDICAL BULLETIN Vol. 25, No. 1, January 1969:
NEW ASPECTS OF HUMAN GENETICS. Scientific Editors:
C. E. Ford and Harry Harris. (40s.) Medical Department,

This excellent issue of the British Medical Bulletin has
ever been admirably planned by a committee headed by
Dr. W. M. Court-Brown. The 16 papers included are by
19 leading geneticists, clinical and population cytogenet-
icists, biochemical geneticists, and specialists in the
generic aspects of blood-groups, haemoglobin, common
malformations and common disorders, as well as
thalassaemia, porphyria, and homocystinuria. An enor-

The second volume in this series deals with aspects of
intracranial tumours, largely of the glioma group. There
are chapters on the pathology and classification of
gliomas, tissue culture of gliomas, nervous system
tumours in animals, chemical composition of brain
tumours, immunological aspects and radiotherapy of
tumours, and a comparison of air studies, angiography,
and isotope scans in diagnosis. The editors state that
they had asked contributors to produce a critical sum-
mary of world literature on their subject and to leav
this with their own experience and that derived from
contacts with other workers. Some contributors have
satisfied this brief, but others have used their space to
put forward their own individual views at length. In the
chapter on pathology and classification of gliomas by
Zulch and Weschler, most of the space is devoted to
a statement of their particular views on this subject, often
with detailed consideration of histology which might be
tedious to the neurosurgeon. Some of the views put
forward by these authors are not widely accepted by
other neuropathologists and this disagreement is not
made sufficiently clear in the text.

The chapter on tissue culture in gliomas by Kersting
makes fascinating reading and is also a model of clear,
concise, and elegant writing. He has used the classifi-
cation put forward by Zulch and it is interesting to note
that his work largely supports this system of classifying
gliomas.

The editors state that they had asked contributors to
produce a critical review of these subjects without the
interposition of very personal ideas. Both these subjects
seem to be in an early formative state and provide much
interest but little of immediate practical value to the
surgeon.

The chapter on radiotherapy is also an objective
review of the present views on this form of therapy and
provides little that is new to the experienced clinician.
The same may be said of the chapter comparing the value
of air studies, angiography, and isotope scans in the
diagnosis of gliomas. This is dealt with in some detail and
gliomas in various situations described separately. It is
done very well and the information about various
isotopes is valuable. The conclusions are those reached by
most neurosurgeons from experience and add little to the
sum total of knowledge.

There is an interesting chapter on nervous system
tumours in animals; most of the known tumours in man
also occur in animals, though there are species differ-
ences and many tumours which cannot be easily classified
in human terms.

This book provides useful and modern views on the
pathology of nervous system tumours and will be a valu-
able reference work for some years to come. The illus-
trations, which are numerous, are all excellent and the
bibliographies after each chapter both voluminous and
comprehensive. The outstanding chapter, both in content
and style, is that on tissue culture and this at least
should be read by all neurosurgeons and neuropatho-
ologists.

BRODIE HUGHES