Book Reviews

THE STRUCTURE OF AMMON'S HORN By Santiago Ramón y Cajal. Translated by Lisbeth M. Kraft, with a foreword by Paul D. Maclean. (Pp. xxii + 78; 16 figures. \$5.50.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1968.

Ramón y Cajal was not the first to undertake a microscopic study of the cells and processes of Ammon's horn, but his contribution (published in 1893 in a journal with very limited circulation) was, and still is, of major importance. Between the time he began this work in 1888 until he communicated his results to the Sociedad Espanola de Historia Naturel in December 1892, he had interrupted its progress in order to complete other papers but he had been spurred on to resume his studies by an important publication on the hippocampus by Luigi Sala, a pupil of Golgi, and also another by Schaffer. During those intervening months there had been significant contributions to the literature of neurohistology, so that Ramón y Cajal's study on Ammon's horn probably benefited from the delay, allowing more reasoned and up-to-the-minute comments on the likely physiological implications of his findings. His writing on this occasion was as usual factual, succinct, highly critical, and fair to other workers.

Von Kölliker who, it will be recalled, took the trouble to learn Spanish before going to seek out Ramón y Cajal and persuade him to attend a meeting of kindred spirits in Berlin, translated this paper into German. It, too, is now as scarce as the original one. It is fortunate therefore that we now have the work available in English and we must be grateful too to Dr. Kraft for a valuable list of references relative to that time.

Ammon's horn has intrigued anatomists and philosophers since the Renaissance and doubtless long before then. Dr. Maclean's foreword constitutes a most valuable but brief review of up-to-date work and current thought on this topic and it is accompanied by a well-selected bibliography.

W. H. MCMENEMEY

THE WORLD OF RAMÓN Y CAJAL—With Selections from his Nonscientific Writings By E. Horne Craigie and William C. Gibson. (Pp. x + 295; illustrated. \$9.75.) Thomas: Springfield, Ill. 1968.

This attractively produced volume contains a selection of the writings of Santiago Ramón y Cajal translated by Dr. Horne Craigie and Dr. William Gibson. The extracts from the autobiography, *Recollections of My Life*, while they may fail to satisfy the Ramón y Cajal enthusiast who has not yet read the complete work, are well chosen and include most of the more dramatic and surprising happenings in this eventful life. There are selections from other favourites, including *Rules and Counsels for the Scientific Investigator*, *Charas de Café*, and an address delivered in 1905 on *The Psychology of Don Quixote and Quixotism*. This pen-happy knight errant of neurology could, after all, hardly have refrained from commenting

on the state of contemporary Quixotism as he saw it and would have wished it.

His aphorisms, culled from the daily sessions in his beloved café club, are on varied topics and mostly philosophical. Some such as those on love and women are not without humour. The one referring to décolletage and other forms of anatomical revelation in the female is in fact as pertinent today as when he committed his remarks to paper. If the dictates of the fashion czars continue thus, he asks, what unpublished extension of anatomy will remain for the future husband? Particularly entertaining are the disparaging comments on human beings which the author puts into the lexogenic cortex of a slave-keeping ant (*Polyergus refescens*) in a letter to his busy little mother.

The first part of this volume takes the form of a travelogue prepared by Dr. Horne Craigie when he set out with his wife to discover landmarks on Don Santiago's road to fame in Barcelona and Madrid. This account of Petilla, Valpalmas, Jaca, Panticosa, Ayerbe, Huesca, Zaragoza, and Valencia is supported by simple drawings by the author, and is full of charm and colour. It contrasts the stark barrenness and poverty of the mountain villages in still remote north-west Aragon with the unbaked marked squares, tiled patios, gardens, and hallowed cloisters of Southern towns with all the gaiety and loveliness of their ancient fiestas.

This instructive book will be a delight for the general as well as the medical reader, in search of pleasing entertainment, portraying, as it does, the story of that 'wayward creature, excessively mysterious, secretive and unlikeable' (the master's own words) who 'finally chose the cautious path of histology, the way of tranquil enjoyment' and built solid foundations on which so much of modern neurology has been securely built.

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INFECTIONS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM, A.R.N.M.D. Vol. 44.

Edited by H. M. Zimmerman. (Pp. xv + 495; illustrated. £10 10s.) Williams and Wilkins: Baltimore, Maryland. (Edinburgh agents: Livingstone.) 1968.

This book contains the proceedings of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease, which met in New York on 4 and 5 December 1964. The approach to the problem of infections of the nervous system is excellent, which is to be expected from the high calibre of scientists and physicians taking part. The first four chapters are particularly instructive in the basic problems involved in the causation of inflammatory reactions occurring in the central nervous system. They cover the possible origin of the mononuclear cells in inflammatory exudates, the role lymphocytes may play in increased permeability, and the immunological mechanisms generally involved in inflammation, taking into account the particular situation of the central