
The first part of the book reviews the literature on spinal and cranial meningocoeles and related syndromes. The author then reviews his 252 cases, covering anatomy, clinical syndromes, and surgical treatment. He considers that there is a generalized skeletal abnormality, but few would accept that the evidence presented is abnormal. Unfortunately, the reproduction of radiographs leaves much to be desired.

J. A. SIMPSON


This book is written for the parents of children with delayed or disordered speech development. The author's personal and professional experience has enabled him to discuss these problems in a sympathetic yet unemotional way. He emphasizes that this guide should be used in conjunction with professional advice; at the same time he indicates those situations where formal therapy would have no place.

It is a book which can be recommended with confidence.

IVAN T. DRAPER


An earlier book on the management of pain by the same authors is now a medical classic. This new work is based on it, but includes new material on the physiological basis on pain sensation and on stereotaxic surgery. It is a difficult book to read and to review critically, as it is based on the results of a large personal series of cases and a review of the literature on neurosurgical methods of relieving pain. Much of the experience reported is anecdotal. Doubtless many of the conditions treated are rare; nonetheless it is surely time that the principles of the controlled clinical trial were adopted in surgical practice. Opinions expressed in the previous monograph are modified or completely reversed on the basis of one or two cases. Until less subjective assessment is available, all will welcome the opportunity to consult the views of two very experienced surgeons when faced with a case of persistent severe pain.

J. A. SIMPSON


The major aim of this volume is 'to review the various phenomena that occur in psychoses and to present a means of ordering these manifestations'. Dr. Freeman depends largely on his own clinical observations for description, and claims to draw on the writings of both Hughlings Jackson and Freud for interpretation. As his dominantly psychoanalytical view of psychopathology is unlikely to convert the uncommitted, the general reader will probably find the descriptive sections of the book more substantial than the interpretative.

MICHAEL SHEPHERD


These 22 essays have been contributed in honour of Professor Weitbrecht of Bonn; they deal with various aspects of the 'endogenous psychoses', with which he has been specially concerned. The title of the book and the avowed intentions of its sponsors lead the reader to expect a thorough survey of the current state of knowledge in this wide area. This is hardly what he gets. The majority of the contributors discuss theoretical issues: they discuss them, it is true, with subtlety and penetration, but the factual ballast is in short supply. It is paradoxical, that at a time when world medical bodies flourish and international congresses multiply, a survey like this shows very little awareness of what is going on in the non-German speaking countries: the bibliographies appended to each article make it abundantly clear that national and linguistic boundaries have not been broken down in spite of easier contacts and more extensive globe-trotting.

English speaking psychiatrists are as insular in this regard as any; it is therefore informative for us to discover from a comprehensive book like this how the subject is being studied in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.

The first group of papers deals with causation and taxonomy. Disorders of childhood and the involutinal period lead on to studies of symptomatology and differential diagnosis, with special reference to atypical forms. The final papers consider experimental psychoses, analogies between schizophrenic and organic syndromes, disturbances of coenaesthesia, and suicide.


Professor Müller comments ruefully on the enormous literature of the subject—his collaborator Dr. Ciompi has compiled a card index with more than 6,000 items—and warns us that the material presented in the book is necessarily drawn only from what seem the most important sources. Far from alarming the reader, this reassures him regarding the readability of the work, which turns out to be both comprehensive and shrewdly selective. The present version is a translation of the German edition which appeared in 1967.

The clinical section deals in turn with details of psychogenic disturbances, suicide, endogenous psychoses, and organic psychoses in the elderly. Institutional care is appraised with special reference to the Lausanne arrangements, and medico-legal aspects are informatively reviewed. A brief statement about therapeutics concludes the book.

Professor Müller has produced an admirable treatise,
Inevitably coloured by his special interests, but providing a well-informed and thorough survey of an extensive, until lately rather neglected, area of psychiatry. He is aware of the difficulty of excluding bias: 'it is inevitable that the doctor's subjective attitude to old age will influence his findings and judgement.' But his presentation of the clinical features and psychopathology is mature and remarkably free from such prejudice.

HENDERSON AND GILLESPIE'S TEXTBOOK OF PSYCHIATRY.

In his autobiography Sir David Henderson told how the enthusiastic response of the Glasgow students to his teaching encouraged him to plan a new textbook of psychiatry 'which I had more and more come to regard as a necessity'. With R. D. Gillespie as his collaborator, he produced the book in 1927, and it established itself almost at once as the leading textbook of psychiatry in the English language. Since then competition has become much keener, but Henderson and Gillespie continues to hold its ground as a balanced exposition 'which would embody Meyerian principles and the clinical teaching of Clouston and Kraepelin'.

In the latest edition Professor Batchelor has made judicious alterations which bring the work up to date. He has also amended the text in the interests of greater conciseness, and has introduced new chapters on psychiatric emergencies and forensic psychiatry. A characteristic feature—the lengthy illustrative case-histories—has been retained; it is questionable whether these now serve much purpose or justify the space they take up: they were, however, dear to Sir David's heart, as he emphasized in the preface to the first edition.

BOOKS RECEIVED
(Books noticed here may also be reviewed in a later issue)


NOTICES

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VASCULAR DISEASES OF THE BRAIN AND SPINAL CORD

This conference will be held in Anaheim, California, U.S.A., from 25-28 May 1970, under the auspices of the American Academy of Neurology and the University of Southern California School of Medicine. Details may be obtained from Dr. Richard P. Boggs, Chief, Division of Neurological Sciences, Rancho Los Amigos Hospital, 7601 E. Imperial Highway, Downey, California 90242, U.S.A.

SCANDINAVIAN NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETY

The 22nd Annual Meeting of the Scandinavian Neurosurgical Society will take place in 1970 on 28 and 29 August, in Stockholm. Further information from Professor Lars Leksell, Karolinska Sjukhus, Stockholm, Sweden. There will be no Meeting of the Society in 1969.

THIRD NEUROLOGICAL DANUBIAN SYMPOSIUM

The Neurological Society, Czechoslovak Medical Society, J.E. Purkyne is organizing this symposium with international participation in Bratislava, 9-12 September 1970. Details may be obtained from Associate Professor Daniel Bartko, Neurological Clinic, Medical School, Mickiewiczova 13, Bratislava, Czechoslovakia.

3RD PAN-AMERICAN CONGRESS OF NEUROLOGY

This conference will be held in São Paulo, S.P., Brazil, in 1971 under the auspices of the World Federation of Neurology and the Brazilian Academy of Neurology. Inquiries to the Secretary, Dr. J. Armburst-Figueiredo, Caixa Postal 5496, São Paulo, S.P., Brazil.