

The fact that it is now 40 years since Professor Dott exposed and wrapped a middle cerebral aneurysm in muscle, and that it is almost as long since he was the first to demonstrate an intracranial aneurysm by angiography, mark him as a pioneering frontiersman whose place is secure in the history of neurosurgical advances.

The succeeding chapters prove worthy successors to Professor Dott's. Almost without exception, each of them records work of a high standard directed towards improving the care of the neurosurgical patient. The consistently good work of the leading Montreal and the Toronto hospitals is made plain. Articles which should be singled out for special mention are those of Charles Drake, Jules Hardy, and of Gilles Bertrand, for these all record pioneering efforts of high significance which have yet to be fully digested and integrated into everyday neurosurgical practice.

The last chapters recording seminars concerning cerebral circulation, increased intracranial pressure, and brain oedema are worthy of the rest of the volume.

The volumes in this series can always be safely recommended for purchase by neurosurgical libraries and by individuals who already possess the earlier numbers; this one stands out—it is a book which anyone interested in the subject would do well to buy. He will certainly profit from it.

DIE OBERE HALSWIRBELSÄULE. By Detlef von Torklus and Walter Gehle. (Pp. 106; 160 figures; DM.55) Thieme: Stuttgart, 1970.

This monograph for the upper cervical spinal column could hardly be bettered. The authors have called on their own experience to produce a book which will be of exceptional value especially to specialists in radiology, orthopaedic and neurological surgery. Their description of abnormalities in the region to which the book is devoted is lucid and practical; it is accompanied not only by excellent reproductions of radiographs, but also by explanatory diagrams and the various abnormalities are linked with the appropriate clinical syndromes. A complete bibliography enhances the value of this book, and it is to be hoped that it will find a large number of readers even beyond its country of origin. Perhaps its greatest value will be as a book of reference, for no condition which the reviewer has encountered in his own experience has been left out, indeed some have been added.

J. SCHORSTEIN

NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING IN ORGANIC BRAIN DYSFUNCTION Edited by W. Lynn Smith and Marion John Philippus. (Pp. xvii+337; tables; \$14.00.) Thomas: Springfield, 1966.

The editors of this book have set themselves the unenviable task of providing an 'overview' of neuropsychology, confined—semantically, at least—to the cortex: the result is a seemingly random collection of papers. It includes, however, a few of historical interest (Piotrowski on the Rorschach pattern of 'typical cortical case', and Halstead on frontal-lobe dysfunction); and some directly concerned with current clinical problems

such as the psychological analysis of focal symptoms (Luria, McFie), and the relationship between visual-spatial and constructional deficits (De Renzi and Faglioni).

Part I contains useful discussions of conceptual problems in brain damage. Part II, designed to cover localization, lateralization, and general studies, in fact omits much of the relevant experimental and clinical work which has been published in the last decade. Parts III and IV introduce topics such as the role of the Cortical Function Laboratory at Denver, small-scale pharmacological studies, and litigation problems; but the data are parsimonious.

In general, a collection of papers can provide a useful source of reference data—particularly in paperback edition. The present volume, however, does not serve this function. Its survey of work in neuropsychology is neither comprehensive nor up-to-date; it cannot therefore be recommended to the clinician or the physiological psychologist.

FREDA NEWCOMBE

MECHANISMS OF SYNAPTIC TRANSMISSION Progress in Brain Research, Volume 31. Edited by K. Akert and P. G. Waser. (Pp. xi + 360, illustrated, 170s.) Elsevier: Amsterdam, London, New York, 1969.

A 1968 symposium from Switzerland differs from many current volumes on the synapse in excluding neuromuscular transmission. The sympathetic ganglia are classical preparations, but the amount of new work on cerebral synapses is most encouraging. The reviews are authoritative, including a particularly interesting one by Carlsson on the pharmacology of monoamine synaptic transmission. There is a first description of the freeze-etching technique applied to electron microscopy of synapses, more studies exploiting fluorescent marking of monoamine-containing neurones, and an account of the role of glycine as a spinal inhibitory transmitter. There is also a contemporary assessment of the Uchizono hypothesis on the inhibitory function of flat vesicles at nerve terminals, the nerve growth factor and its antiserum, adrenergic depletion by 6-hydroxydopamine (try looking for *that* one in an alphabetical index), and many other subjects. This is not a systematic handbook but is genuinely an account of progress in brain research.

J. A. SIMPSON

NURSING CARE OF THE UNCONSCIOUS PATIENT By Pamela Mountjoy and Barbara Wythe. (Pp. 104; 11 illus; 15s.) Baillière, Tindall & Cassel: London, 1970.

This short book has clearly defined aims: to give practical instruction to those who nurse unconscious patients. It succeeds in this admirably. The nursing procedures are described with precision yet are leavened with humanity. The text is interrupted by some long and detailed Tables and these might have been better in an appendix for easy reference. There are refreshingly few examples of that curious prissy jargon which is sometimes found in nursing manuals.

This guide can be warmly recommended and should be used widely.

IVAN T. DRAPER