The same meticulous analysis led to the recognition of cerebral venous thrombosis, of high cervical compression and to the significance of the different sequelae of head injury.

Following his early training at Johns Hopkins with Adolf Meyer, Sir Charles continued a particular interest in psychological disorder. Indeed, for some nine years his clinic in Guy’s Hospital was for both nervous and mental diseases. It was so successful that a psychiatrist (Gillespie) was ultimately appointed to take over the large sub-department of psychiatry. Though Sir Charles then continued in charge only of neurology, his special interest in psychological medicine enabled a fresh approach to be made to the difficult problems of delirium and confused mental states. The papers on traumatic mental confusion, on neurisis, and on memory disorder in this volume are in their way as important as those on subarachnoid haemorrhage. In the same vein, the analysis of the wartime problems of flying stress have many implications for the perennial psychoneurotic reactions of the peace-time clinic.

The author modestly remarks ‘what I have written is mostly out of date’. He means that the conclusions are now well known. In fact, the collection is truly a classic, presenting in most accessible and readable form some of the best clinical neurological reporting of the last 50 years. The author’s style gives these papers a freshness and interest that has not diminished with the passage of time. The experienced neurologist who has read the papers before will find again many fascinating details and much stimulating discussion. For the young physician in training these essays in clinical investigation will make him aware of many nuances of neurology.

D. DENNY-BROWN


This book summarizes some useful facts about headache and particularly about migraine. Some new views on the etiology of migraine, and specially its biochemical accompaniments, are discussed. The practical application of a number of remedies, both old and new, are also illustrated. To many practitioners and neurologists a recurrent problem is how far and when to investigate persistent or episodic headaches. This question is also dealt with in a useful and commonsense fashion: with due regard to the guidance to be gained from an adequate history of the complaint. In general, the book is a useful addition to knowledge based on the personal experience and research of a well-known neurologist. It should appeal to his colleagues as well as to general practitioners and students.

C. W. M. WHITTY


There are now many text-books on general anaesthesia and most make some reference to the central nervous system. The author is to be congratulated on producing one that can be read with pleasure and returned to many times thereafter, for solid information.

In the short compass of a little over 500 pages, Professor Jenkins covers the basic sciences and clinical considerations necessary to practising anaesthetists. In his preface he expresses the hope that several sections may also be useful and informative to physicians practising general and specialty surgery, and medicine. Its value to the undergraduate is problematic.

The contents are divided into five sections. Anatomy and physiology, pharmacokinetics, special techniques, hypoxia and anaesthetic management, all concerned with their relationship to and effect on the central nervous system. The references at the end of each chapter are particularly extensive and should prove very useful.

This entire volume is orientated to make the reader consider and evaluate the effect of drugs and anaesthetic techniques on the central nervous system. Whilst this is of importance to the anaesthetist practising neurological surgery, its value becomes obvious in all other branches of surgery, once the contents of the book are read and appreciated. With the exciting and significant developments in recent years and much yet to be discovered, the presentation of facts will also prove of value to the wide range of physicians and surgeons whose interest lies in the central nervous system.

This well-illustrated book is easy on the eye and demands no great muscular activity to handle. The publishers, Messrs E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., earn our gratitude for introducing this valuable newcomer to the United Kingdom, even at the price of £8.

Certainly, it well deserves to be included in every reference library.


To a large extent today’s physician has replaced the priest and minister, and his attitude towards his patients has needs acquired a measure of spiritual responsibility. Dr. Ledermann’s book arrives opportunely and should be welcomed by practitioners of medicine, particularly psychiatrists, to strengthen or negate their practices by a strict examination of their beliefs and their foundations. These are only to be found in an explicit demonstration that practice and belief have their roots in and stem from a particular brand of philosophical conviction of which the practitioner may be entirely unaware.

At the outset the author sets his face against the mechanistic-determinist philosophy and argues for a holistic teleological approach. In psychiatry he favours the existential point of view as against the behaviourist. In this he bases himself largely on Kantian philosophy, which he presents briefly, but very adequately for his purpose, and on the exponents of modern existentialism and of phenomenology. Karl Jaspers has influenced him, and it is pleasing to find this great philosopher restored to his proper—that is, eminent—place as the first exponent of existentialism in modern psychology and psychiatry. Many authors have paid scanty attention to Jaspers and appear to believe that existential psychology derived from the ontologies of Heidegger and Sartre alone. Jaspers knew well that even his own views had been preceded by those of Kierkegaard and Nietzsche.