
Dr. Draper's third edition of Lecture Notes on Neurology is a good book, reasonably priced, and clearly one to be recommended to students. It is not too long and is well written. It is a successful book and it would surprise me very much if Dr. Draper did not have the opportunity of producing many more editions.

There are a number of small points on which critical comment is necessary and which in subsequent editions the author might consider altering. There is an implication on p.16 that unsteadiness, worse when the eyes are closed, must be due to a posterior column lesion. The difficult problem of explaining the action of extra-ocular muscles is dealt with not very clearly and the figure (Figure 12) illustrating movements, though correct, could be confusing and, unfortunately, it is repeated as Figure 24 later in the book.

The pathology of tabes is described as involving destruction of the posterior root ganglion 'nerve cell bodies'. Most authorities seem agreed that such loss of cells as may be present is not enough to account for the degeneration in the posterior columns. In the section on syringomyelia it is a pity that recent ideas on the aetiology were not included, particularly in view of the therapeutic possibilities.

C. J. Earl


Professor Ritchie Russell's monograph maintains the high standard and high degree of interest established by the other contributors to this series. His early work, founded on detailed studies of head-injured patients was published in the early 1930s. Since then he has gone on to develop his concepts of memory, learning, and amnesia in the light of experience and expanding biological knowledge. Some of the earlier papers are no longer easily available; annotated extracts from these, together with more recent contributions, are presented in this volume.

The style is literate and the content memorable.

Ivan T. Draper


This monograph contains a detailed description of a series of 54 patients treated by Torkildsen's ventriculocisternostomy. Thirty-nine of the patients were operated on because a neoplasm was obstructing the circulation of the cerebrospinal fluid; the longest survival in this group was 17 years. The good results obtained in nine patients with benign aqueduct stenosis are reported; the longest postoperative follow-up in this group is 27 years in a man who was aged 21 at the time of his operation.

A chapter by Dr. Paul New discusses and illustrates the radiological findings with great clarity. The authors stress the importance of first-class radiological studies in case selection by warning that a Torkildsen shunt will fail when the subarachnoid spaces are blocked — for