are entirely adequate and allow the reader to concentrate on the essential phenomena. The book would not have suffered, as a practical manual, by drastic reduction of the number of illustrative cases. On the other hand it would have gained by inclusion of a chapter on motor endplate biopsy. There is a good chapter by H. E. Neville on electronmicroscopy of muscle. The authors and publishers are to be congratulated on producing this valuable and timely book at such a reasonable price.

J. A. SIMPSON


This excellent publication was made possible by the cooperation of 57 German and Swiss psychiatrists of whom each is an authority in a special subject. The various psychopathological concepts are objectively and informatively presented. The volume does not intend to replace standard text books on psychiatry, but it will be a great help to students and to all those who work in fields which border on psychiatry. Even to the trained psychiatrist it will be an occasional aid in supplying adequate information should he want to consult it on some specific concept with which he may not be very familiar.

The book’s approach is Catholic. The essay on ‘epilepsies’ contains nearly 11,000 words with 18 references to the literature, while the essay on existential analysis has about 9,000 words with 29 literature references, among them a reference to a text with a strong existential analysis. Important disease entities—for example, alcoholism, drug dependence and the schizophrenic illnesses—are particularly well presented, and conflicting theories are put before the reader in an objective manner.

The book maintains an even, high standard throughout, and for that thanks must be due to the editor whose labour must surely have been most strenuous.

J. SCHORSTEIN


At first sight a book devoted to the function and disorders of a single cranial nerve appears somewhat daunting. Such apprehension as may be inspired by the title is also accentuated by the fact that the examination of the olfactory nerve is so often neglected in the clinical examination. Mr Douek quickly dispels such fears by providing an intriguing account which is relevant to the clinical practice of all neurologists, neurosurgeons, and ENT surgeons.

He describes logically the anatomy and electrophysiology of the nose and olfactory system, and then reviews many of the theories appertaining to the sense of smell. This is followed by a comprehensive account of clinical tests, including olfactometry. He then provides a detailed description of the symptoms and investigations of abnormalities of smell, whether determined by peripheral, local, or intracranial lesions. The chapter on the legal aspects is of particular interest because of the frequency of the claim of anosmia in medico-legal assessment of head injury patients.

Mr Douek’s approach is essentially eclectic; this sometimes leads to rather unnecessary accounts of straightforward neurological diagnosis—for example, he describes a routine for investigating cerebral tumours, and a classification of the epilepsies. However, in dealing with his own extensive experience of disorders of olfaction he is both discursive and critical, and hence provides a most valuable survey based on fundamental principles of disordered anatomy and physiology.

The book is nicely produced with clear illustrations. Inaccuracies are few, although he does cite two references to his own work which suggest they were published 60 years apart! This is a most useful handbook and is strongly recommended.

JOHN PEARCE


John Menkes has succeeded in writing a most interesting and valuable book on paediatric neurology. Succeeded perhaps where others failed because, in its unashamedly biased way, it reflects his particular interests and approach. Well-known for his neurometabolic research and even eponymously linked with a disease which is curiously almost an obverse of Wilson’s disease, Menkes has produced a text with a strong biochemical and research emphasis, mostly written by himself.

My first reaction was of disappointment at the relatively scant clinical descriptions, but on reflection, perhaps it is unwise for a text like this to attempt to compete with teaching at the bedside. Sections on CNS malformations, infections, and learning disorders are presented succinctly by Gabriel, Weil, and Kinsbourne respectively. Bibliographies are helpful and extensive, and reasonably updated with a few 1973 references included.

The use of illustrations is restrained, and this is probably reflected in the price, which is modest by transatlantic standards.

The book can be commended as a reference text.