as much to the art as to the science of medical practice.

Now, forty years after Beaumont was first published, with the picture ascendancy over the word, and provides the packaging of the scientific message and A Colour Atlas of Brain Disorders in the Newborn is a finely produced example of the genre.

After introductory sections describing the principles and practice of cranial ultrasound and MRI with terse accounts of clinical and electrophysiological techniques in the newborn, there are chapters on intraventricular and periventricular haemorrhage, leukomalacia, cerebral arterial infarction, vascular processess of antenatal origin and hypoxic-ischaemic encephalopathy in full term infants. These are in the form of a series of case histories of infants from gestation onwards, lavishly illustrated with beautifully reproduced photographs of clinical, electrophysiological and imaging features. The pictures are apposite, and the whole provides a valuable clinico-pathological synopsis of the current state of perinatal science, a counterpart to the morass of indigestible and often irrelevant analyses disgorge by number-crunching automata, pitted against the task of understanding small numbers of small babies.

The excellence of the illustrations is only slightly marred by the mediocre quality of some CT films from an older generation CT scanner.

I have no doubt this book will be much in demand by all paediatricians—at £50 it is not over-expensive for departmental libraries.

JOHN WILSON


A genius is not a separate breed; he does all the things that the rest of us do, only he does them much better. My previous view of Cajal was that of an austere old, balding gentleman with a bushy beard and a beard sitting in a front row pose behind a beautiful antique brass monocular microscope. This famous photograph of the ageing Cajal is on the front cover of his autobiography. This view was shattered as I progressed through the book; it paints a picture of a highly talented artist and scientist, acutely sensitive of his surroundings and of his fellow men and women.

Cajal was born in 1852 in one of the poorer areas of Spain. His father struggled to obtain his medical degree whilst supporting his family and the autobiography gives a graphic account of an austere childhood. Many of Cajal's early exploits are described in detail and particularly his obsession with drawing and painting, an activity which his father actively discovered. In his teens, Cajal was apprenticed, first as a hairdresser and then for a year as a shoemaker before entering College and then Medical School in Zaragoza. Escewing the life of a clinician, Cajal became one of the most famous neurobiologists of the twentieth century.

Much of the autobiography covering Cajal's period at Medical School and later life is a series of loosely connected anecdotes. There are accounts of the almost revolutionar-y Cajal arguing with his teachers against the dogma of the day and selected insights into an almost modern approach to teacher-student relationships. Cajal's talents were obviously recognised at an early stage and encouraged by his teachers. At one point, a tutor decided that the students knew far more about their fellows than he did, so he asked Cajal and a friend to grade all the students and accepted their decisions without argument as did the headmaster.

Most people now remember Cajal for his two large treatises on Histology of the Nervous System and on Degeneration and Regeneration in the Nervous System. Some will have been fascinated by the devilish трех of the neuronal theory fostered by Cajal from his painstaking observations of Golgi preparations and silver stains of vertebrate and invertebrate nervous systems. His papers and books between 1889 and 1933 number nearly 300; most are in Spanish but later papers were often in French or German. At one time he found that publication times were so long that he established his own journal. Cajal's scientific contributions can be assessed from the scientific literature but what this autobiography gives is a fascinating insight into the determination and sensitivity of the man behind such a contribution to neuroscience. The artistic talents he developed in his childhood are displayed in the careful pen drawings of biological preparations; his love of photography also comes through in the present book.

The style of the book is rather stilted, a feature that the translator E Horne Craigie admits but defends by saying that he wanted to retain Cajal's literary style. The translation was first published in eleven instalments over three years after Cajal's death, although the original autobiography—Recuerdos de mi vida—was published in several instalments from 1901 onwards.

Documentation of many of the events in Cajal's life are recorded with the clarity and attention to detail that characterised his scientific writings. For example, upon suspecting that his fiancée's affections were waning, Cajal devised an experiment to test her. The next time he parted from his fiancée, he kissed her (a cutaneo-cutaneous kiss, you understand, not a mucoso-mucosal kiss). From the look of repugnance on her face and her shrieks of outrage, the 24 year old Cajal, suffering at the time from malaria, decided that the relationship was at an end.

Cajal had many honours bestowed upon him during his lifetime but his autobiography projects him as a man with normal passions and doubts. In this respect, it is a very encouraging book, although at the end, Cajal became bitter and disillusioned. I found this autobiography a fascinating book both to read and to delve into at odd moments. It gives a rare glimpse into the life of someone who has made a very significant contribution to science.

R O WELLER

SHORT NOTICES


A fiftieth anniversary celebration of the origins and work of the Burden, and its publications and personalities—from Professor Gollia to Grey Walter.


Another detailed update with contributions from 150 leading scientists. Main topics are epidemiology, clinical and pathological studies, neurochemistry, genetics and molecular biology. Cholineseredeficit still figures prominently, amyloid plaques are still centre stage. The biological dilemmas of ageing effects as opposed to disease remain. A useful source manual for researchers.

Current Problems in Neurology: 11. Alzheimer's Disease: Towards an understanding of the aetiology and pathogenesis. Edited by D Davies. (Pp 136; £18.) London: John Libbey & Co Ltd, 1989. Another well produced monograph from Libbey embracing the major areas of topical interest and research in eleven concisely written chapters. Pathology, clinical and genetic studies are provided. Researches on neurotransmitter defects, trace elements, protein chemistry of plaques and amyloid are well covered. A more succint up to date account than the American volume.

NOTICE

The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh Specialty Fellowship Examination in Surgical Neurology. A diet of the Specialty Fellowship Examination in Surgical Neurology will be held on 11 September 1990.

Candidates who hold a Diploma of Fellowship of a Surgical College or an equivalent Diploma are required to have three years post Fellowship experience in Surgical Neurology of which one year must have been completed in an approved centre in the United Kingdom. Candidates must submit written evidence of the experience in the specialty including their operative experience.

The application forms, examination calendar and Regulations are available on request from the Examinations Secretary, The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9DW. Applications for entry must be received by 27 July 1990. Fee £250.00.
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**THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE** welcomes original papers, which should be addressed to Prof. RAC Hughes, Editor, Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Psychiatry, Medical School Building, UMDNJ-Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital, St Thomas Street, London SE1 9RT, UK. Papers are accepted on the understanding that the subject matter has not been and will not be published in any other journal. Papers should deal with original material and the discussion should be closely relevant to this. Manuscripts should be type-written in double spacing on one side of the paper only. A summary should appear at the beginning of each paper. The name(s) of the hospital or laboratory should also appear. Full postal address for correspondence and reprints should be supplied. Receipt of manuscripts will be acknowledged. Three copies (including figures and tables) should be submitted, of which only one need be a top copy. If the paper is rejected these will not be returned. After being kept for three months to answer any queries they will be shredded. Original figures will only be returned if the request is made when the paper is submitted.

The Editor welcomes Short Reports and Letters. Topics suitable for presentation as Short Reports include single case reports containing information from special investigations (for example, neurophysiological, radiological or pathological) that illustrate new phenomena, or reports of short, well focused research studies. Short reports should be restricted to about 1,500 words with a minimum of references and no more than one figure and one table. Suitable topics for a letter to the Editor include a report of one or more cases illustrating novel clinical phenomena, useful clinical tips, or additional reports of extremely rare associations. Also suitable are brief preliminary reports of research findings. Letters should be no longer than 1,000 words, with a maximum of five references and no more than one illustration or table. Short letters concerning papers published in the journal will be printed under Matters Arising. Editorial will be solicited by the Editor.

Literature citation in short reports and letters: Due acknowledgement of appropriate prior reports should be given. On the other hand, a comprehensive, general review of a topic is not appropriate as part of a short report or letter and references should be selected for relevance to the specific topic of the report.

Papers must be accompanied by the following statement which must be signed by all the authors: “No work resembling the enclosed article has been or will be published anywhere except in the JNRP. We transfer all copyright ownership to the Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Psychiatry”.

**ETHICS** Ethical considerations will be taken into account in the assessment of papers (see the Medical Research Council's publications on the ethics of human experimentation, and the World Medical Association's code of ethics, known as the Declaration of Helsinki (see British Medical Journal 1964; 2:177)).


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