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BOOK REVIEWS

AIDS TO THE INVESTIGATION OF PERIPHERAL NERVE INJURIES

M.R.C. War Memorandum No. 7

(H.M. Stationery Office. 1942. Pp. 48. 2s.)

The main purpose of this small booklet is to illustrate the practical methods of testing the action of all the individual muscles of both extremities, and this is accomplished by photographs which are excellently reproduced and which clearly demonstrate how the observer should hold the limb and how to instruct the patient to bring into action the desired muscle.

An alternative method of testing is occasionally given, but in the case of the small muscles of the hand some useful manoeuvres are omitted and insufficient stress is laid on the detection of trick movements. Another criticism is that the illustrations are all taken from normal

individuals and tend to give the reader a false sense of the ease with which paralysis or weakness of contractions can be detected.

Two valuable features are that the legends state the nerve supply and the main segmental innervation of each muscle and that there are a series of line drawings illustrating maximal, average, and minimal areas of sensory loss in lesions of the important peripheral nerves.

As an introductory treatise to a newcomer to peripheral nerve investigation and as a means of quick reference to those more experienced the booklet will prove useful.