John Menkes described delightful writing. Like text and seen. 

Milestones in developmental techniques drawing taking into account recent research. By motor of assessment and normal learning problems. It is made clear that this assessment should grow out of a collaboration with the child and his parents.

This book is not only immensely readable; it provides a sound knowledge base for anyone working with children with cerebal palsy.

A LIS OC N AL SALT


John Menkes described kinky hair syndrome and maple syrup urine disease, entities which are memorable enough to make him famous. This book is a tour de force written largely by the man himself and succinctly covering the whole of neurology with a certain amount of psychology. Menkes is an experienced and thoughtful physician who brings wisdom and historical perspective to his writing. Like Raymond Adams or Jean Acardi, there is obviously nothing he has not covered.

Menkes’ father practiced medicine in the foothills of the Austrian Alps at the turn of the century. He had studied with the pathologist who necropsied Ludwig van Beethoven and he remained ever sceptical that bacteria could cause disease. Perhaps it is John Menkes’ intimate appreciation of how fast things have moved, coupled with his recognition that brings such depth and range to this book.

He does not restrict himself to the modern American literature, but quotes widely in geographical and historical terms. In comparing epileptic and non-epileptic convulsions Menkes turns to Gowers for an account. Similarly Menkes’ choice is defined in full by its original author with a fascinating recommendation for treatment:

"Take of Black-cherry-water one Ounce, of Langius’ Epiliptick-water three Drachms, of old Venice-Treacle one Scroop of Liquid Laudanum eight Drops make a draught"

Menkes is erudite, interesting and up to date. He gives good sensible clinical advice and avoids getting too difficult when and tests. He writes well and although he makes extensive use of the literature, he cuts through the detail, and provides us with clear conclusions. A comprehensive bibliographic availability is available at the end of each chapter. The book is in one volume, but everything is there that any normal neurologist is likely to need, and it is well organised, extensively cross-referenced. It may have benefited from conversion tables so that Europeans could more easily interpret the American units, and in places a more symptom-based approach might have made it easier to read. Finally, it is clear that we are seeing a diagnosis. But these are minor criticisms.

REBECCA AYLWARD


This book sets out to review the experimental approaches to the assessment of motor activities primarily in rats and how this has been applied to certain neuropsychiatric conditions such as Tourette’s syndrome and schizophrenia. It is therefore a book that will be of interest to experimental psychopharmacologists rather than neurologists or psychiatrists as only the last two chapters are concerned with human studies.

Each chapter sets out to combine theory with practical details and goes on to discuss some relevant experimental studies. This is an admirable approach and indeed succeeds in some places—for example, the chapter by Schwarting et al. on automated video-image analysis of behaviour.


This is the third edition of a popular and useful book. It is emphatically not a textbook on epilepsy, but a collection of 100 guiding principles—almost aphorisms—which lie at the heart of the successful clinician’s management of epilepsy. The book is by no means a comprehensive introduction, but an altogether unusual approach, yet it works well.

The topics are dealt with by lightness and elegance, and the result is impressivestly almost a watercolour sketch, but the information is generally concise and appro.

The 100 principles are divided into 18 sections, starting with “Approach to the patient”—the first aphorism being “The brain is just another organ” (Allen please note) and the second “Assume that every patient with epilepsy wants to get well” (Dostoevski please note). The next sections are perhaps more conventionally dealt with, but a valuable contribution to the philosophy of epilepsy and therapy, the last few concerned with...