
This book is a study of the role of verbal activity in the growth of the structure of the human mind. The author describes himself as an experimental realist and at the end of the book discusses the philosophical implications of the standpoint. The main part of the work is concerned with the tracing of the development of mind from pro-verbal integrations met with in animal behaviour to full logical capacity. In this process the use of words is in the author’s opinion essential and he traces the way in which the child acquires words and uses them; also how symbolizations are formed and used as short cuts in thinking; and finally how these are organized into concepts which may be used in rational argument.

A full bibliography is appended and the work is one which is bound to have great interest for educationists and psychologists.

R. G. G.


In the third volume of the series of studies from the author's clinic Professor Guillain presents a selection of his recent contributions to neurology. The work is divided into eight parts under the following headings: (1) cerebral tumours; (2) pathology of encephalitis; (3) pathology of the crus, pons, medulla and spinal cord; (4) spinal cord diseases; (5) pathology of the cranial nerves and roots; (6) muscular atrophies; (7) miscellaneous articles and (8) history of neurology. In part I three chapters are devoted to cerebral cysticercosis, a condition seldom seen in this country. A subtentorial tumour described in the same section as an angioglioma seems from the histological description to belong rather to the haemangioblastomas.

For the most part the illustrations are excellent and like its predecessors the volume forms a series of clinical lessons which should prove of great value to the neurologist.


This new contribution to the study of hereditary neurosyphilis is based largely on the author’s wide clinical experience and consists essentially of descriptions of clinical syndromes of almost bewildering variety. Syphilis is responsible for affections of any cranial nerve and any part of the neuraxis and its coverings.
Its symptoms range from intellectual defect to incontinence of urine. So far as this aspect of his subject is concerned, the conspectus is remarkably complete and equally minute. But inherited neurosyphilis raises also other questions which are here dealt with much more sketchily. A series of cases, it is true, exemplify its occurrence in the second generation, and one, possibly, in the third; further, 20 out of 120 cases seem to prove its causation of epilepsy. But we do not find more than incidental references to blood and spinal fluid examination, the relation of somatic to neurosyphilis, the appearance of clinical manifestations in the same form in parent and offspring, or to data which may be taken to aid in solving the problem of neurotropism where syphilis is concerned. In its class, the monograph has many excellencies and is sure of appreciation.


The exact nosological position of disseminated sclerosis is at present forming the subject of various critical investigations, old though the problem is, and often discussed before. Its relation to what is vaguely styled 'acute disseminated encephalo-myelitis' has not as yet been established. Dr. Cournand, working under the aegis of Professor Georges Guillain at the Salpêtrière, comes to the conclusion that "a large number" of cases placed in the latter category belong as a fact to disseminated sclerosis, and he bases his decision on both clinical and histological considerations, as well as on the results of examination of the spinal fluid. With this conclusion many neurologists will be in substantial agreement, nevertheless we should appreciate the value of Dr. Coûrmand's work more highly still were we not convinced that until etiological questions are answered it is inadvisable to rely so much as he does on clinical and pathological data, alone.


A slender brochure on the pituitary, to which a number of the teachers of the Viennese school have contributed, covers with some completeness, if in a very concise way, the field of present knowledge as regards that organ from its several aspects. Dr. Hirsch has operated on 90 pituitary cases by the intranasal route, of which patients only 17 died within the first three years. No fewer than 27 are still living from four to ten years after operation, and in 17 the condition has improved and been maintained. He alludes also to the technique of pituitary puncture, but is not inclined to recommend it. Dr. Sgalitzer has
treated 25 cases by X-ray radiation, claiming good results in two cases of acromegaly (out of five), in six of lipodystrophic type (of ten), and in four with ocular symptoms pronounced (out of ten). Dr. Marburg's contribution is on the clinical side, while Dr. Spiegel's article on anatomy and physiology is the most detailed as it is the longest in the volume.


In this volume the authors have presented a concise guide to the anatomy and physiology of the nervous system. The style is naturally dogmatic; the greater part of the text is occupied with short descriptions of minute anatomy; physiology is very briefly discussed. The book is profusely illustrated by anatomical diagrams, which will no doubt be of considerable value to the student preparing for intermediate examinations. A chapter is added on certain pathological conditions but this is so brief as to be of little real value to the student of clinical neurology. As a guide to undergraduate students it should prove a useful compendium.


This volume is an expansion of the author's short contribution on the neuroses in his textbook on Clinical Neurology. After a short survey of the history of psychiatry and the development of psychopathology, chapters follow on mental mechanisms, the etiology of the neuroses, their classification, clinical manifestations, diagnosis, course, prognosis, and treatment. Though there is some brief discussion of the physiological, neurological, endocrinological, and sociobiological views of the origin of the neuroses, psychoanalytic doctrines are in the main advanced and the writer shows himself an ardent disciple of Freud, whose teaching he here closely follows. There is no evidence of any special originality in the work, but the material is clearly treated and the book constitutes a readable presentation of the subject according to the aspect of this particular school of psychopathology. Some concise descriptions of clinical cases illustrating various neurotic syndromes enhance its value. In an appendix some useful advice is given on examination and Dr. David Wechsler adds a chapter on general intelligence, mental level and psychometric tests. For the medical student and general practitioner this monograph amply fulfils its purpose.

C. S. R.