

## BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKRESENSIES

### SEX IN MARRIAGE

*Sexual Adjustment in Marriage.* By Henry Olsen, M.D. (Pp. 310 + xxxiv. 21s.) London: George Allen & Unwin. 1954.

*Contents:* 1. The Human Organism. 2. The Sex Organs. 3. Hormones and the Sexual Functions. 4. Sexual Need or Sex Urge. 5. Living Together. 6. Hygiene of the Couple's Sex Life. 7. Disturbances in a Couple's Sex Life. 8. Marriage. 9. Sex Life of the Unmarried. 10. Fertilization, Pregnancy, Childbirth. 11. Interruption of Pregnancy. 12. Regulation of Fertilization. 13. Masturbation. 14. Sexual Abnormalities. 15. Diseases of Sex Life. 16. Sexual Education.

This book has been written for the instruction of the lay public. The author is a medical man, and he has carried out the task he set himself with delicacy and a deep sincerity. The performance of this duty was perhaps not so onerous to the author as it would be to most of us, for at an early stage of his career Dr. Olsen was appointed by the City of Copenhagen as organizer and director of instruction in sexual hygiene to certain students for whom the Copenhagen Municipality is responsible. Sexual instruction has since been adopted by most Danish colleges and in 1945-46 it was introduced in all Copenhagen public schools and high schools and in many corresponding schools all over the country. Dr. Olsen's *Textbook on Sexual Hygiene* is widely used in these schools.

The present work consists of 16 sections which cover 67 chapters and 667 numbered items. There is no further index. The subject matter dealt with is in effect an account of the biology of reproduction. Against this general background there is brought into relief the problem of sexual adjustment in marriage. After a general biological consideration anatomy is presented, then physiology, sometimes some pathology and, finally, a certain emphasis on the

psychological and psychiatric. This is rounded off with a substantial account of venereal disease.

The author never fails to show good taste. The only gross inaccuracy discovered was the statement that the urethra was 2½ to just over 3 inches in length, when presumably centimetres appeared in the original language. The information and advice given to readers is acceptable, and here the author proves himself to be a highly responsible person. The author himself clearly exhibits purity of heart and he labours under a desire to raise marital success to a high level, being convinced that a fuller understanding of the biological and psychological relevancies would at present promote such an endeavour.

O.S.H.

### METABOLIC AND TOXIC DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

*Metabolic and Toxic Diseases of the Nervous System.* Proceedings of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease. Edited by H. Houston Merritt, M.D. and Clarence C. Hare, M.D. (Pp. 604 + xii, with 104 illustrations and 73 tables. 76s. 6d.) London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1953.

*Contents:* 1. The Parathyroid Gland and its Relationship to Diseases of the Nervous System. 2. The Pituitary Gland in Relation to Cerebral Metabolism and Metabolic Disorders of the Nervous System. 3. Studies of Adrenocortical Physiology in Relation to the Nervous System. 4. The Thyroid Gland in Relation to Neuromuscular Disease. 5. The Thymus and its Relationship to Diseases of the Nervous System: Study of 374 Cases of Myasthenia Gravis and Comparison of 87 Patients Undergoing Thymectomy with 225 Controls. 6. Clinical and Physiological Effects of Excessive Heat. 7. Clinical and Metabolic Effects of Exposure to Low Environmental Temperatures on the Central Nervous System and Related Visceral Structures: A Cytochemical Study. 8. The Role of B Vitamins in the Metabolism of the Nervous System. 9. Folic Acid, Vitamin B<sup>12</sup>

and Related Compounds in Metabolism of the Nervous System. 10. Abnormal Copper Metabolism and Hepatolenticular Degeneration. 11. The Neurological Disorder Associated with Liver Disease. 12. Diseases of the Nervous System Associated with Disturbances of Lipide Metabolism. 13. Neurophysiological Aspects of the Opiate and Barbiturate Abstinence Syndromes. 14. Psychoses Produced by Administration of Drugs. 15. Physiologic Development of the Cortex of the Brain and its Relationship to its Morphology, Chemical Constitution, and Enzyme Systems. 16. A Quantitative Histochemical Study of Eight Enzymes of the Cerebellar Cortex and Subjacent White Matter in the Monkey. 17. Carbohydrate Metabolism and Diseases of the Nervous System. 18. Hypoglycemia and Brain Metabolism. 19. Potassium Metabolism and Dysfunction of the Nervous System Associated with Hyper- and Hypokaliemia. 20. Porphyrin Metabolism and Diseases of the Nervous System. 21. Creatine and Creatinine Metabolism and Diseases of the Neuro-Muscular System. 22. Biochemical Actions of Toxic Substances on the Nervous System. 23. The Toxic and Metabolic Effects of General Anaesthetic Agents on the Central Nervous System. 24. Effects of Ionizing Radiation on the Adult and Embryonic Nervous System. 25. Effects of Heavy Metals on the Central Nervous System. 26. The Effects of the Organic Solvents and Industrial Poisonings on the Central Nervous System. 27. The Effects of Bacterial Toxins on the Nervous System. 28. The Effect of Alcohol on the Nervous System. List of members. Index.

The Proceedings of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental diseases are justifiably regarded as an up-to-date epitome of research and an authoritative review of modern ideas, and are an indication of the very high standard that has been attained in neurology and in psychiatry in the western world. It has been the custom to deal with a specific field or subject each year so that each volume in the past has not only contained papers of a high standard, but has been sufficiently comprehensive in its selection to justify its being used as a book of reference. The present issue, however, attempts to cover an area so wide that completeness appears, to some extent at any rate, to have been sacrificed for variety and this reviewer was left at times with a sense of omission, and at other periods with a vague feeling of dissatisfaction and even of irrelevancy.

Each of the 28 chapters well maintains the expectedly high standard. The opening paper on the parathyroid is one of the best in the book, and is followed by a series of articles on endocrines; but, inexplicably, hypothyroidism as a factor in syndromes of the nervous system receives no mention at all. The inclusion of the chapters on the clinical effects of excessive heat, and of cold, come almost as an intrusion! Both, however, are informative and represent original work; the section dealing with the effects of cold should be read by every neurologist; it is interesting to note that of 112 references, only 2 report on the infamous work of the Nazis.

Vitamin-deficiency syndrome are very inadequately represented, but the reports on copper metabolism and hepato-lenticular degeneration, and the stress laid on liver disease in the etiology of neurological syndromes and coma are well worthy of study; the relationship between hepatic pathology and brain disorders will perhaps be increasingly recognized in the future. A well documented article on hypoglycaemia still leaves us in the dark as to how insulin therapy produces its benefits, or whether it produces any at all! Finally there are educative chapters on the effects of drugs, organic solvents, anaesthetics and such like toxins.

Like its predecessors, this issue is a 'must' in the library not only of every neurologist or psychiatrist, but of anyone interested in metabolic disorders. Most of the clinical papers deal with both neurological and psychiatric aspects, thereby demonstrating the close relationship between the two. Finally, the discussions at the end of each paper are themselves very informative, though it is a pity they are so condensed.

M.P.

#### CONGENITAL SYPHILIS

*Congenital Syphilis.* By David Nabarro, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 470 + xi, with 95 illustrations. 50s.) London: Edward Arnold (Publishers) Limited. 1954.

*Contents:* 1. Nomenclature. 2. Historical. 3. Incidence of Congenital Syphilis. 4. Transmission of Congenital Syphilis. 5. Pathology. 6. The Clinical Picture. 7. Symptomatology. 8. Symptomatology (continued). 9. Third-Generation Syphilis. 10. Familial Susceptibility of Individual Tissues to Syphilitic Invasion. 11. Diagnosis and Prognosis of Congenital Syphilis. 12. Treatment of Congenital Syphilis. 13. Acquired Syphilis in Childhood. 14. Syphiloids. Index to Authors. Subject Index.

This is a new book by a paediatrician who has shown particular interest in congenital syphilis for the greater part of his clinical years. His observations are, therefore, of special interest.

He notes that syphilis and tuberculosis are not infrequently associated in affections of the lungs, and reports on 20 cases

personally observed. The literature reports few such cases in children. The author considers that paroxysmal haemoglobinuria is often caused by syphilis because he finds the condition clears up on treatment with anti-syphilitic drugs. He advises that every case of acute or chronic lymph-node enlargement should be suspected of being syphilis, and that biopsy of the glands and serologic tests should be carried out. Mild hydrocephalus, herpes zoster and convulsions are not infrequently associated with congenital syphilis. Congenital syphilitics may have psychical manifestations as their only signs or symptoms. Thus delinquents, mental deficient, and cases of chorea, should be investigated for syphilis, as should be their parents and other members of the family. A notable omission from among the causes of false positive blood-reactions is glandular fever (infectious mononucleosis).

A feature of the book is the excellent case histories from the author's own material. The length of time over which some of his cases have been observed can be judged when it is seen that many of them were originally treated with mercury, the majority with arsphenamine and bismuth; all belong to the pre-penicillin era. The treatment advised by the author is penicillin, mapharside and bismuth, given during the same week. This differs from the American method of using penicillin only.

Nabarro considers third-generation syphilis possible. He gives details of 8 families with syphilis in 3 generations. He believes that a woman with untreated congenital syphilis may have children whose developing tissues and organs are adversely affected by the maternal syphilis without there being active syphilis in the infant. Anti-syphilitic treatment of such infants would be of no avail. He names this condition 'para-syphilis' or 'occult syphilis.' Both these names have been given to entirely different conditions by other writers.

The author notes that in Britain there is a real reduction in the prevalence of congenital syphilis. This has resulted in the teaching that the disease hardly exists and need no longer be considered. He points out that there is a real danger in this state of complacency. It is of interest to note that the cutting down of the Federal Government vote for the treatment of syphilis in the United States of America resulted in an increase of syphilis in certain areas, and that because of the effect on public opinion more money was made available.

There are many illustrations, and all the chapters have references. This book can be highly recommended to all those interested in a condition which certainly still exists in the Union of South Africa.

F.W.F.P.

#### UROLOGY BY MANY CONTRIBUTORS

*Urology, Vols. 1, 2 and 3.* Edited by Meredith Campbell, M.S., M.D., F.A.C.S. (Pp. 1-862, 863-1666, 1667-2356, with 1148 figures. South African price £25 10s. for set of 3 volumes.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1954.

*Contents: Volume I.* 1. Anatomy and Physiology. 2. Principles of Diagnosis. 3. The Pathology of Urinary Obstruction. 4. Embryology and Anomalies of the Urogenital Tract. 5. Infections and Inflammations of the Urinary Tract. 6. Infections and Inflammations of the Male Genital Tract. 7. Infertility in the Male. 8. Urinary Lithiasis and Foreign Bodies. *Volume 2.* 9. Injuries of the Urogenital Tract. 10. Tumors of the Urogenital Tract. 11. Neuromuscular Disease of the Urinary Tract. 12. Urology in the Female. 13. Urology in Infancy and Childhood. *Volume 3.* 14. Endocrinology in Urology. 15. Urologic Surgery. 16. Radiation Treatment of Tumors of the Genitourinary Organs. 17. Medical Diseases of the Kidney. 18. The Adrenals. Index to Volumes 1, 2 and 3.

The American publishers who induced Dr. Meredith Campbell to collaborate with 51 contributors in the production of yet another tome on urology are indeed to be congratulated. In this 'Urology' in 3 volumes we have an excellent and authoritative reference book which covers more adequately than ever before the entire scope of urology and its related basic and clinical sciences. Urology, like most divisions of medicine, has advanced and increased to such an extent that one author can no longer present all phases of the subject adequately. A one-volume, one-author attempt must of necessity be a 'Synopsis' or an 'Essential Urology' and much of the content is repetition from earlier works or information gleaned from others.

The 3 volumes comprise 18 broad sections, which are so comprehensive that each is subdivided into several chapters, each written by a different author. Few authors are responsible for more than one chapter.

To illustrate the scope and subdivisions of the sections one of

then will be outlined, viz: *Section X, Tumours of the Urogenital Tract*:

Chap. 1, Tumours of the Kidney, by Clyde L. Deming; Chap. 2, Tumours of the Ureter, by Winfield W. Scott; Chap. 3, Tumours of the Bladder, by Hugh J. Jewett; Chap. 4, Benign Hyperplasia of the Prostate Gland, by Robert V. Thomson and J. E. Ash; Chap. 5, Carcinoma of the Prostate, by William W. Scott; Chap. 6, Tumours of Seminal Vesicles, by Thomas E. Gibson; Chap. 7, Tumours of Penis, Urethra, Scrotum and Testis, by Archie L. Dean; Chap. 8, Tumours of Spermatic Cord, Epididymis and Testicular Tunics, by Thomas E. Gibson.

The editor in his preface claims that many of the contributions are classic monographs, and this is no overstatement of fact. Each chapter has been compiled by an authority in the particular topic. Except three, the authors are Americans, but they are of international stature. In fact this 'Urology' needs no better recommendation than the list of contributors.

A book of numerous contributions has inherent characteristics which some may deem disadvantages. There is some repetition and overlapping. Some chapters are better than others. The editor has succeeded admirably in selecting authors, getting the best from each, and arranging the text so that good continuity and sequence is maintained.

This 'Urology' covers the science in the wider sense and ample consideration has been given to allied and related subjects. The sections on Anatomy, Physiology, Neurology, Endocrinology and X-ray Therapy are well elaborated. A section of 12 chapters is devoted to the technique of urological operations, and operative procedures are outlined in several other chapters. The sections on Anaesthesia and Medical Diseases of the Kidney are desirable inclusions. Urological surgery probably more than any other branch of surgery requires careful consideration of water and electrolyte studies, and this has been dealt with in a thoroughly practical manner. There is in fact no modern trend either investigatory or therapeutically which has not received adequate attention. Each chapter is followed by a carefully selected list of references, which increase the value of the work as a reference book.

There is little in this work to criticize. The section on Parasitology, and in particular the chapter on Bilharziasis, is not as good as the rest. We recognize this because this disease is endemic in South Africa. The Editor might well have invited an authority from an endemic area to contribute the needed monograph.

The setting, type and editing make for easy reading. The illustrations are carefully selected and reproduced with great clarity. There is a full index of all 3 volumes at the end of each volume.

The book is dedicated to 'Those who may be helped by these volumes'. Their number is legion; anyone interested in this or any related subject can hardly afford to be without these volumes.

P.J.M.R.

#### THE DIENCEPHALON

*Diencephalon: Autonomic and Extrapyraxidal Functions.* By Walter Rudolf Hess, M.D. (Pp. 79 + xii, with 33 illustrations. \$4.00). New York: Grune and Stratton. 1954.

*Contents:* 1. Foreword. 2. Preface. 3. *Part I.* Functions of the Diencephalon and Neighbouring Related Areas. 4. The Method of Localized Stimulation and of Destruction of the Stimulated Area in the Unrestrained Animal. 5. Synthesis of Experimental Results. 6. Autonomic Effects, Including Somatomotor Auxiliary Mechanisms. 7. Diencephalic Motor Innervation. 8. Autonomic Effects and Frontal Lobe. 9. Some Prospects for Future Research on the Branch. 10. *Part II.* Integration of Autonomic Functions. References. Index.

It is a pleasure to read this little book, which gives so much information on the diencephalon. The different methods used to clarify the function of the diencephalon are not only of interest to physiologists and pharmacologists but will become increasingly important to neurologists and psychiatrists.

The tremendous amount of work done by Hess and his co-workers can be realized fully only if one remembers how much time is spent on preparing stained sections of the brain and mapping out the different points stimulated. The exact localization of the points of stimulation is done by means of a series of photograms covered with coordinate nets. The cinematographic method of picturing all phases of the cats' behaviour after stimulation of the different parts of the diencephalon, is also described. These are only a few aspects of this extensive work.

The problem of direct comparison of anatomical substrata and physiological patterns has become more and more difficult since biochemical and physical methods have opened a new field of research technique.

The fundamental statement made by Hess that 'it can hardly be wrong to regard the diencephalon, rather than the cortex, as the true central organ of the body' becomes clear if one takes into consideration the numerous careful experiments and the author's concept of a 'centre'. The centre, according to Hess, 'unites the function of individual effector organs for the performance of a definitive task'.

It is to be hoped that in the future more books by W. R. Hess will be translated and edited in this clear and careful manner.

M.W.