

REVIEWS OF BOOKS : BOEKRESENSIES

YEAR BOOK OF NEUROLOGY, PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROSURGERY

The Year Book of Neurology, Psychiatry and Neurosurgery. (1956-1957 Year Book Series). Edited by Roland P. Mackay, M.D., S. Bernard Wortis, M.D. and Oscar Sugar, M.D. Pp. 596. \$7.00. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1957.

Contents: Neurology—Introduction, Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, Infectious Diseases, Vascular Disturbances, Degenerative Diseases, Metabolic Disorders, Trauma, Convulsive Disorders, Exogenous Toxins, Neuropathies, Diagnostic and Therapeutic Methods. *Psychiatry*—Introduction, General Topics, Psychodynamic and Psychopathologic Studies, Psychophysiologic Studies, Experimental Psychiatry, Psychosocial Studies, Child Psychiatry, Mental Deficiency, Organic Disorders, Acute and Chronic, Paroxysmal Convulsive Disorders, Schizophrenia and Affective Disorders, Psychoneuroses and Psychosomatic Disorders, Miscellaneous Clinical Syndromes, Military Neuropsychiatry, Therapy. *Neurosurgery*—Introduction, Basic Sciences, Diagnostic Technics, Congenital and Perinatal Disorders, Infections, Trauma, Intracranial Vascular Disease, Brain Tumors, Hypothermia and Hypertension, The Sympathetic Nervous System, Treatment of Pain, Trigeminal Neuralgia, Peripheral Nerves, Convulsive Disorders, Surgery of Involuntary Movements, Miscellaneous.

In this compilation the authors have included abstracts of publications of neurological and psychiatric interest received between November 1955 and October 1956. Most aspects of these fields are represented, though some only briefly, e.g. Psycho-analysis. The material abstracted is largely from American journals, but contributions from farther afield, including our own, make their appearance.

Each section is preceded by an informative introduction reviewing the trends that have emerged during the year under discussion and critically appraising some of the newer developments. A useful list of publications in the field of psychopharmacology occupies an important position in the introduction to the section on psychiatry as does a reference to articles too complicated to abstract and a list of recent interesting psychiatric publications.

With its well organised content and adequate index, this publication is a useful book for the specialist. The neuro-surgical section of this Year Book is edited by Oscar Sugar, M.D. who follows Dr. Percival Bailey who had been editing this section for many years previously.

This section includes abstracts of publications from neuro-surgical, general surgical, medical, radiological, dermatological and anaesthetic journals, from the Americas, Britain, the Continent, Scandinavia and Australia.

There are representative articles on the basic sciences with reference to experimental ultrasonic lesions in animals, and diagnostic techniques with reports of a large variety of new compounds for angiography. Congenital and peri-natal disorders, infections, trauma, vascular disease and brain tumours, are all dealt with. There are a number of abstracts on hypothermia and hypotension. The sympathetic nervous system, treatment of pain

and trigeminal neuralgia, also have their representative articles. There are abstracts on the convulsive disorders and the surgery of involuntary movements, and in the final section under 'Miscellaneous', a technique for hypophysectomy and an article on pre-frontal leucotomy are included.

Every neuro-surgeon looks forward to this annual publication and once again, this particular one is not a disappointment.

F.F. and H.M.

ANATOMIES OF PAIN

Anatomies of Pain. By K. D. Keele, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. x + 206. Plates XIII, Figs. 14. 27s. 6d. net. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1957.

Contents: Preface. 1. The Sensory Heart. 2. The Greek Debate on the Heart, Brain and Pain. 3. The Central Nervous System Emerges as The Basis of Sensation. 4. The Search for the Sensorium Commune. 5. The Discovery of the Spino-Thalamic Tract. 6. Twentieth-Century Pain Mechanisms. 7. The Structure of Pain. Index.

This work gives an interesting and well documented account of views concerning sensation and, more particularly, pain from the earliest known to the present time. It tells how sensation was first attributed to the heart, thereafter to nerves which, however, proceeded to the heart, in the blood of which was situated the Soul. The work of certain Greek philosophers slowly changed this, but at the time of Galen the contemporary Christian Father Tertullian evoked the testimony of the Gospels to support the older view of Aristotle and others. In time the Latin scholar Albertus Magnus, later canonized, exerted his influence to return to the concept of sensation in the brain. The battle was not yet over, and even great physiologists like Harvey chose Aristotle's view. The story unfolds to the dissections of Charles Bell, the experiments of Magendie and thereafter the evolution of modern concepts on sensation and pain.

The work is of supreme interest to the medical historians and to all interested in neurology and should prove of interest to all other doctors as a well-written and comprehensive survey of a most important subject.

F.E.

CLINICAL EXAMINATION OF THE PATIENT WITH ORGANIC CEREBRAL DISEASE

The Clinical Examination of Patients with Organic Cerebral Disease. By R. Klein, M.D., and W. Mayer-Gross, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. xiii+96. Figures 9. 15s. London: Cassel & Co., Ltd. 1957.

Contents: Foreword. Introduction. I. Aphasia. 1. Disturbance of the Motor Act of Speech. 2. Disturbance in Speech Formulation. 3. Defects in Naming (Nominal Aphasia). 4. Disturbance of Speech Comprehension (Word Deafness). 5. Automatic Speech in Aphasia. 6. Defects of Written Language. 7. General Remarks on Aphasia. 8. Musical Disturbances (Amusia) and Disturbances of Rhythm. II. Disorders in the Visual Sphere. 1. Visual-motor Disturbances. 2. Metamorphotic and Kindred Disorders. 3. Visual Agnosia. 4. Visual Alexia (Pure Word Blindness). 5. Colour Agnosia. 6. General Remarks on Visual Agnosias. 7. Disturbance in Orientation of the Outside Space. 8. General Remarks on Spatial Disorder. III. Temporal Disorder. IV. Disorders of Motor Actions at a Higher Level. 1. Lack of Motor Impulses and their Excess. 2. Dyspractic Disorders. 3. Disturbance in Special Manual Skills such as Writing, Drawing and Construction (Constructional Disorder). 4. General Remarks on Disturbance of Motor Action of Higher Order. V. Tactile Agnosia. VI. Disturbance Connected with the Body Scheme. 1. Disturbance of the Body Space. 2. Disturbance in Apperception (unawareness) of body parts and of their functions. VII. Disturbance in the Use of Numbers (Acalculia). VIII. Rules of Dominance. IX. General Disturbances. 1. Disturbance of Attention. 2. Disturbance of Intelligence and Thinking. 3. Defects of Memory and Retention. 4. Disturbances of Emotion, Affect and Mood. 5. Disturbance of Consciousness. References. Index.

Developments in the fields of neurology and psychiatry in the last two decades have to a large extent settled the old problem of joint specialism in these two major subjects and it is doubtful if to-day anyone has the intellectual stature, the clinical acumen and the energy to be able to lay claim to being both a first-class

neurologist and a first-class psychiatrist at one and the same time. This is not to say that there are not many able neuro-psychiatrists who practice their art with considerable skill and to the great benefit of their patients. Be that as it may there can be no doubt but that the neurologist is not completely trained without a good basic knowledge and understanding of psychiatry, in its present-day broadest meaning. Even more so must the psychiatrist be well skilled in neurology for so very many of the patients presenting with psychiatric problems are ill because of organic brain disease. This book is a satisfactory introduction to the clinical examination and understanding of such conditions. It brings together in comparatively small compass the practical information required for investigating these cases. This is, of course, already available in various larger texts and monographs but it requires much searching of the literature and a long time spent in medical libraries to make it available. It will be especially valuable to those psychiatrists, particularly those in mental hospitals, whose neurological training is little more than of the undergraduate level. The chapter headings indicate the topics dealt with, generally in an adequate fashion, and bibliographical references enable the careful enquirer to pursue the subject in greater detail. It can be confidently recommended also to the medical registrar and the good general practitioner who quite correctly seeks to complete his essential knowledge.

S.B.

CHEMOTHERAPY AND THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

Chemotherapy and the Central Nervous System. By Henry McIlwain, Ph.D., D.Sc. Pp. viii+328. 61 Illustrations. 45s. net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1957.

Contents: Preface. 1. Chemical Synthesis of Therapeutic Agents. 2. General Depressants. 3. Control of Body Temperature. 4. The Chemotherapeutic System: I. Bodily Distribution and Metabolism of Drugs. 5. The Chemotherapeutic System: II. Actions of Drugs on the Body and on the Disturbing Agent. 6. Infection: I. The First Specific Agents. 7. Infection: II. Metabolic and Biological Antagonism. 8. Epilepsy and Anticonvulsants. 9. Analgesics. 10. Nervous and Mental Disorders: I. Drugs Mainly Excitant. 11. Nervous and Mental Disorders: II. Drugs Mainly Depressant. 12. The Nature and Results of Chemotherapeutic Trial. Author Index. Subject Index.

The modern training in the therapeutics leaves much to be desired and one must regretfully say that all too often the doctor is instructed in the use of drugs almost solely by the multicoloured publications of the advertising experts who so elaborately and expensively, and even sometimes skilfully push the products of the pharmaceutical manufacturers, an industry which has become very big business indeed. While it is true that reputable firms have established reasonable standards of experimental efficacy and therapeutic trial, products are all too often presented to the doctor with exaggerated claims as to their clinical value and too few of us can undertake our own evaluations of their real benefit. One way for the doctor to avoid the impact of skilful psychological suggestion is to equip himself with the basic chemotherapeutic knowledge that will enable him to use reasonable scientific scepticism when he peruses his daily dozen of advertisements. This book deals with the therapy of the nervous system and it describes methods and principles in chemotherapy as a whole; it deals with the production of drugs for special purposes in cases of the various disorders to which this system is subject and there is some mention of practical clinical application. It is the latter topic, however, which fails to provide the completeness of information that had been hoped for and one must look elsewhere for detailed information of the clinical use and value of the many drugs whose chemical, biochemical, and biological aspects are so adequately dealt with in this text. The subject matter is not conducive to a lightness of literary touch and the book is not an easy one to read, but the specialist in psychiatry and neurology and the post-graduate student will find much of great value in it.

B.S.