

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS : BOEKRESENSIES

### APPROACHES TO MENTAL DISEASE

*Integrating the Approaches to Mental Disease.* Two Conferences Held under the Auspices of the Committee on Public Health of The New York Academy of Medicine. Edited by H. D. Kruse, M.D. Pp. xvi + 393. \$10.00. New York: Paul B. Hoeber Inc. 1957.

*Contents:* Participants. Preface. Introduction. *First Conference.* 1. The Organic Position on Etiology—Ralph W. Gerard. 2. The Experimental Psychological Position on Etiology—Carney Landis. 3. The Psychodynamic Position on Etiology—Lawrence S. Kubie. 4. The Psychosocial Position on Etiology—Erich Lindemann. Discussion. 5. Areas of Interdoctrinal Acceptance. Discussion. 6. Areas of Interdoctrinal Unacceptance. 7. Further Interdoctrinal Differences. 8. Evidence of Interrelation Among Doctrines. 9. Searching for Common Ground. 10. Confronting the Communication and Concept Barriers. 11. Next Steps for Further Interrelation, Convergence, and Integration. 12. Multidisciplinary Knowledge and Research. *Second Conference.* 13. The Organic Viewpoint on Mental Disease—Herbert H. Jasper. 14. The Psychological Point of View—B. F. Skinner. 15. Fundamental Concepts, Basic Principles and Assumptions of the Psychodynamic Position on Mental Disease—Franz Alexander. 16. The Psychosocial Position—A Preparatory Statement—Thomas A. C. Rennie. 17. Areas of Acceptance. 18. Areas of Unacceptance. 19. Further Areas of Unacceptance. 20. Clinical Principles in the Practice of Psychiatry—Their Clarification, Refutation, or Validation. 21. Additional Clinical Psychiatric Principles. 22. Outline of Critical and Decisive Studies with a Multidisciplinary Approach on Causation of Mental Disease. 23. Further Thoughts on a Multidisciplinary Approach. 24. Cross-Criticism Among Disciplines. 25. Interdisciplinary Differences in Concepts, Values, and Relevance. 26. From the Abstract to the Concrete. 27. The Quest for Hypotheses from the Various Disciplines and Their Influence on the Stimulation of Multidisciplinary Research. 28. Psychoanalytic Technic of Observation and Validation of Hypotheses. 29. The Search for New Technics to Verify Observations and Validate Hypotheses in Psychoanalysis. 30. Collection of Observations and Validation of Hypotheses in the Sociological Approach. 31. The Role of the Basic Scientist in Multidisciplinary Research. Index.

The 48 participants in the two conferences reported in this absorbing volume are eminent psychiatrists and psychologists and a few experts from related fields. The conferences demonstrate very strikingly today's increasing awareness of the unsatisfactory state of theory and practice in the realm of abnormal human behavior.

A *verbatim* account of proceedings has the special virtue that the reactions of the discussants to each other's ideas are preserved with all their nuances. It is an interesting sign of the times that attacks upon the non-scientific character of many of the views held by psychiatrists, especially those of psychoanalytic persuasion, are not superciliously rejected as they would have been a few years ago, but instead evoke admissions (even if sometimes very wry ones) that properly controlled studies are needed.

It is clear from the discussions that the main reasons for the backwardness of psychiatry are failure to give clear definition to terminology, failure to state hypotheses in terms that permit

testing, facile acceptance of hypotheses without any testing and poor design of testing operations—so that the investigator deceives himself and others through spurious 'validation'. Many examples of each kind of error are to be found in the book, often in areas that are accepted as 'common knowledge.' The book should not be missed by anybody engaged in psychiatric practice or research.

J.W.

### TRAQUIR'S CLINICAL PERIMETRY

*Traquir's Clinical Perimetry.* Seventh Edition. By G. I. Scott, M.A., M.B., F.R.C.S. Ed., with a foreword by Norman M. Dott, C.B.E., M.B., F.R.C.S. Ed. Pp. xv + 333. 280 Illustrations including 5 coloured plates. 60s. net. London: Henry Kimpton. 1957.

*Contents: Part I. Introductory.* I. The Normal Field of Vision. II. Perimetric Instruments. III. Methods of Examination. V. Physiology of the Visual Field in Relation to Clinical Perimetry. *Part II. Clinical Perimetry.* V. The Function of Perimetry. VI. The Pathological Field. VII. Anatomy of the Visual Pathway. VIII. Interpretation of Changes in the Visual Fields. IX. Choroid and Retina. X. Glaucoma. XI. The Optic Nerve. XII. Chiasma. XIII. The Suprachiasmatic Pathway and Visual Cortex. Summary of Affections of the Visual Pathway. XIV. Functional Changes in the Field of Vision. *Appendix.* I. The Size Relative to each other of Arcs, Chords and Tangents subtending the same Angle. II. Isopters for White and Colour in the Normal Field. III. The Blind Spot. IV. Tables of Tangents and Degrees for Use with Bjerrum's Screen. V. Uses of the Perimeter and Screen Otherwise than in Field Testing. Bibliography. Index.

The 7th Edition of this well-known work is the first since the author's death in 1954. It is edited by Prof. Scott of Edinburgh, one-time pupil of Traquir.

The lay-out and content of the book is basically unchanged from the previous edition; the main alterations are to be found in the sections on the anatomy of the visual pathway, on the anterior part of the optic radiations, on glaucoma, on the optic nerve and the chiasma.

The anatomy of the visual pathway is well set out and easy to read. The recent (1957) work of Falconer and Wilson is included to show that they found congruous contralateral homonymous field defects following a series of cases of anterior-temporal lobectomy. Hitherto it had been accepted that field defects resulting from temporal lobe tumours were incongruous. This is particularly interesting as Traquir (1922) held the view that a lesion of the optic radiation could not produce an incongruous defect. His own view was that the incongruity was due to pressure on the optic tract. Falconer's work confirms Spalding's findings that anatomically the lower fibres of the anterior part of the optic

radiation loop round the tip of the temporal horn of the lateral ventricle.

Throughout, each subject is dealt with in a clear and interesting fashion. There is a wealth of detail in the 333 pages, but at no time is the reader bogged down by unnecessary figures and data. There is a full and useful bibliography of over 20 pages. On page XI a printing error is seen: 'Fig. 10' should read: 'Fig. 12'.

All ophthalmologists, neuro-surgeons and neurologists already have this book. It is strongly recommended to all interested in these fields of medicine.

S.S.

## ALLERGY IN PEDIATRICS

*Allergy in Pediatric Practice.* By William B. Sherman, M.D. and Walter R. Kessler, M.D., Ph.D. Pp. 296. Illustrated. South African Price: £3 18s. 9d. St. Louis: The C. V. Mosby Company, 1957.

*Contents:* 1. Introduction. 2. Immunology of Allergic Diseases. 3. Nonimmunologic Factors Affecting Allergic Reactions. 4. Drugs Used in the Treatment of Allergy. 5. Anaphylaxis in Pediatric Practice. 6. Serum Sickness and Serum Reactions. 7. The Atopic Diseases. 8. Allergens Causing Atopic Diseases. 9. Diagnosis of the Specific Causative Allergens. 10. Injection Treatment. 11. Allergic Rhinitis. 12. Bronchial Asthma. 13. Atopic Dermatitis—Infantile Eczema. 14. Urticaria and Angioedema. 15. Gastrointestinal Allergy. 16. Allergy of the Eye. 17. Allergy of the Central Nervous System. 18. Contact Dermatitis. 19. Delayed Allergy to Infective Agents. 20. Allergic Purpura. 21. Drug Allergy. 22. Physical Allergy. 23. Allergy in Relation to Collagen Diseases. 24. General Pediatric Care of the Allergic Child. Appendix.

Those of us who are not almost exclusively allergists are still rather hesitant about accepting an allergic basis for the manifold ills of the human race. A certain lurking suspicion persistently suggests that the strange terminology of the allergist is used as a cloak to cover a mass of surmise and as evidence of superior knowledge bordering on the occult. This book does everything possible to dispel such ideas. It is an honest, plainly written, highly interesting account of the part played by allergy in paediatrics. The terms used are defined clearly and no attempt is made to cloak the absence of proof where none is available. Where it is known, the explanation is given and the apposite references are included at the end of each chapter.

The book is easy to read and while plenty of theory is supplied, the whole subject is discussed from the viewpoint of the practising doctor. Procedures of testing, in their many forms, are detailed and illustrated by easily comprehended diagrams and coloured and black and white photographs of the highest quality. The treatments

recommended and the drugs likely to be helpful are clearly described. The print is excellent, as is the index.

This would be a valuable addition to the reference library not only of any paediatrician but of any physician, be he a general practitioner or a medical specialist of one kind or another. Well worth its price which, though considerable, cannot be regarded as excessive in view of the current cost of books and especially of authoritative textbooks of this high standard.

F.F.

## ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY

*EKG-Fibel.* Von Dr. R. Heinecker. Mit einem Geleitwort von Prof. Dr. F. Hoff. xii+200 Seiten. 182 Abbildungen in 308 Einzeldarstellungen und 34 schematische Darstellungen. DM 19.80. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag, 1956.

*Inhaltsverzeichnis:* A. Einführung. I. Physiologische und anatomische Grundlagen. II. Zur Technik der EKG-Aufzeichnung. III. Das normale Extremitäten-EKG. IV. Zur Deutung der EKG-Kurve. V. Die Ableitungsprogramme. VI. Entstellung der EKG-Kurve infolge technischer Mängel. B. Formveränderungen des Elektrokardiogramms. I. Veränderungen des Vorhofteils. II. Veränderungen, die überwiegend den Kammerteil betreffen. C. Störungen der Schlagfolge. I. Störungen, die vorwiegend die Reizbildung betreffen. II. Störungen der Erregungsleitung. III. Der Stokes-Adams-Anfall. D. Indikationen zur Benutzung eines über die Standard-Extremitäten-Ableitungen (Einthoven) Hinausgehenden Ableitungsprogramms. Sachverzeichnis.

This primer in electrocardiography amply fulfills its object. It is an excellent booklet, which gives in precise and abbreviated form all the essential data on electrocardiography. The material is clearly presented and the marginal notes are especially helpful in correlating the text with the appropriate illustration or diagram.

The schematic drawings merit very special attention. They lucidly represent closely related electrocardiographic patterns and serve to emphasize the distinctive features of each.

In many of the electrocardiograms bipolar chest leads were taken, as well as the usual standard leads, augmented unipolar extremity lead and the V leads. Although the bipolar chest leads are occasionally helpful, they have not been generally adopted amongst English and American workers. The augmented unipolar limb leads, on the other hand have been generally accepted amongst these workers, and it is a pity that in a number of tracings the aVL leads have been ousted by the bipolar chest leads.

This is, however, only a very minor criticism, and the book is well worth reading. It is written in German.

H.L.