

PRACTICAL AUDIOMETRY

Leitfaden Der Praktischen Audiometrie. Zweite, verbesserte Auflage. By Prof. Dr. Bernhard Langenbeck. Pp. viii+196. 52 Figures. Price: DM 24.- (packed). Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1956.

Contents: 1. Abteilung: Einführung. I. Die klassische Untersuchung des Gehörs. II. Die Audiometer. II. Abteilung: Hörschwellenaudiometrie. III. Die Methodik der Hörschwellenauffindung. IV. Die Auswertung der Audiogramme. V. Diagnostik. III. Abteilung: Die überschwellige Audiometrie. VI. Der Lautheitsausgleich (Recruitment). VII. Verwendung von Geräuschen in der überschwelligen Audiometrie. VIII. Beziehungen der überschwelligen Befunde zueinander. IX. Sprachaudiometrie. Anhang: Simulationsproben. Rückblick. Literatur.

In the revised second edition of his book on Audiometry, Prof. Langenbeck of Bonn, lives well up to the scientific tradition of German audiology. This volume deals in most comprehensive fashion with all the problems of audiometry and in fact all the problems of testing the hearing.

He begins the book with an account of the usual methods of testing by voice. Then goes on to discuss the modern audiometer and in the later chapters discusses various uses to which an audiometer can be put. He deals exhaustively with pure tone threshold audiometry, loudness balanced tests and their application to the presence of recruitment, the finer details in testing for differential signs in nerve deafness, for instance, differentiation between hair cell deafness and deafness due to a lesion of the acoustic nerve itself.

Tests for malingering appear in one of the later chapters of the book. There is a full bibliography which is collected at the end of the volume and not at the end of each chapter. It is gratifying to note that the work of English-speaking authors is given due recognition.

There are a few minor criticisms. The review copy was wrongly bound, certain pages were bound in the wrong order whilst a few pages were omitted altogether.

Lastly, it seems a pity that a book of such integrity and scientific worth should be spoilt by being bound in soft covers instead of the more usual hard covers. The book can be highly recommended as an advanced treatise on audiometry in all its phases for the specialist otologist.

B.T.B.

THE WORKMAN'S EAR AND HEARING

Noise and Your Ear. By Aram Glorig, Jr., M.D. Pp. viii+152. Illustrations. \$6.50. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1958.

Contents: Foreword. Preface. *Section I. Introduction.* 1. History of Noise and Hearing. 2. Brief History of the Development of Compensation Laws. 3. Glossary of Audiological and Medicolegal Terms. *Section II. The Ear and Hearing.* 4. Anatomy of the Ear and Theories of Hearing. 5. Psychoacoustics, the Measurement of Man's Responses to Sound. *Section III. Audiometry.* 6. Pure Tone Audiometry. 7. Speech Audiometry. 8. Test Procedures, Personnel and Records. 9. Test Environment and Test Equipment. *Section IV. Hearing Loss.* 10. Hearing Loss, General and Occupational. 11. Effects of Hearing Loss on Social Activity and on Job Activity. *Section V. Effects of Noise Exposure.* 12. Effects of Noise Exposure. *Section VI. Conservation of Hearing.* 13. Guide for Conservation of Hearing in Noise. *Section VII. Compensation and Rating Scales.* 14. Compensation and Rating Scales. Appendix 1. Organizations whose Activities are Directly Related to the Problems of Hearing Loss and of Noise. Appendix 2. Partial List of Manufacturers of Equipment, Ear Protection and Test Rooms Used for Hearing Conservation. Appendix 3. References for Further Reading. Index.

This little monograph is the first of a new series which will deal with Industrial Medicine.

The series, 'Modern Monographs in Industrial Medicine', is designed for industrial physicians, including those engaged in general practice or in surgery who derive at least part of their practice from industry.

Industrial medicine is basically preventive medicine. So important are the problems, both medical and legal, associated with the effects of noise, that this subject was deemed of priority importance and chosen for the monograph. Dr. Glorig, whose work in this field is known the world over, is the Director of

Research of the Sub-committee on Noise in Industry, Committee on Conservation of Hearing of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology.

The book should be read and studied by all workers interested in the field of industrial medicine, especially those interested in industrial deafness. It has an appeal, therefore, to doctors engaged in Workmen's Compensation Act problems and to otologists whose interests incline towards the same field. The book, in a short compass, gives all the essential data which are necessary in assessing the effects of noise on the human ear. Various methods of calculating auditory disability are discussed and a suggested scheme is given. This suggested scheme seems practical and worthy of consideration by the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner in this country. The scheme also has value in assessing auditory disability due to accidents and should be of great help to otologists appearing in court in such matters.

Included in the book is a very complete glossary of terms used in auditory physiology and in fact in acoustics generally.

I cannot praise too highly the contents of this book and believe that it will be a most valuable addition to any otologist's library.

B.B.

PSYCHIATRY AND PHARMACOLOGY

The Relation of Psychiatry to Pharmacology. By Abraham Wilker, M.D. Pp. viii + 322. \$4.00. Baltimore: The Williams and Wilkins Company. 1957.

Contents: Introduction. 1. The Effects of Drugs on Human Behavior. 2. Theories and Mechanisms of Drug Actions. General Conclusions. References. Index.

This is an important book of the nature of a lengthy and detailed pharmacological review. It presents a survey of drugs used in psychiatry. So valuable is this work that its early publication, at low cost, has been sponsored by the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics.

There has been unprecedented interest in recent years in the use of drugs in psychiatry and a tremendous amount of information is scattered widely through medical literature; in the volume under review the author selected 889 references from English, French and German literature. The subject is important not only because of drugs used in the treatment of psychoses and psychoneuroses but also because of their use as tools to produce 'model psychoses' and to test theories about the cause and pathogenesis of behaviour disorders. Rapid developments, many of highly technical nature, are taking place in psychiatry and pharmacology. In this volume a survey is made in both these disciplines. In view of the immensity of the subject a limited number of drugs has been reviewed in detail, others only incidentally, and only certain theories of drug action and theories of behaviour are considered.

The material is arranged in two main sections. In the first, 'The effects of drugs on human behaviour,' details are given of the degree and manner in which drugs can effect changes in cerebral metabolism, neural organization and environmental adaptation. The second section gives details on the 'theories and mechanisms of drug actions'. The approach to all questions and answers is that of the experimental psychiatrist.

Abundant evidence is provided on the detection and manipulation by drug action of a host of variables that influence behaviour and the inadequacy of certain theories is exposed. Emphasis is made that in psychiatry proper controls are urgently needed in studies of the comparative effects of drugs on behaviour, and in pharmacology the further development of techniques for the study of brain activity and behaviour is a major problem. A joint effort is needed to establish 'pattern-specificity' in the actions of drugs, to detect 'common denominators' on which they act; in this way it is indicated that the testing and revision of theories of behaviour may lead to progress in the clinic and the laboratory.

There is much detail in this volume on drugs used to produce coma, 'psycho-exploration,' tranquillization, elevation of mood,

'model psychoses,' and the biochemical, neurophysiological and psychological mechanisms involved.

This timely, detailed and critical survey of the literature in a rapidly growing field is most welcome to pharmacologists and psychiatrists and to other interested readers.

N.S.

CHRONIC BRONCHITIS, EMPHYSEMA, AND COR PULMONALE

Chronic Bronchitis, Emphysema, and Cor Pulmonale. By C. H. Stuart-Harris, M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.P. and T. Hanley, M.D. (Lond.), M.R.C.P. Pp. vi + 246. 61 Figures. 42s. + 1s. 3d. Postage. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1957.

Contents: I. The Definition of Chronic Bronchitis. II. The Clinical Picture of Chronic Bronchitis. III. Exacerbations, Terminal Illness, and the Morbid Anatomy of Chronic Bronchitis. IV. The Differential Diagnosis of Chronic Bronchitis. V. Infection and its Relation to Chronic Bronchitis and Emphysema. VI. Emphysema and the Function of the Lungs. VII. Emphysema (continued). VIII. Pulmonary Heart Failure. IX. The Pathological Physiology of Cor Pulmonale. X. Treatment. XI. The Epidemiology and Pathogenesis of Chronic Bronchitis. Index.

This book is a monograph in which the authors have attempted to draw together the results of diverse studies relating to various aspects of chronic bronchitis, emphysema, and pulmonary heart failure. In this they have succeeded admirably. The work has been done in Sheffield, a large industrial centre in Britain, and was conducted by the staff of the Department of Clinical Medicine of the University of Sheffield. After defining the term 'chronic bronchitis,' the authors give an excellent clinical account of the condition in its various forms, and stress the relation of infection to chronic bronchitis and emphysema. Thereafter the subject of pulmonary heart failure is reviewed indicating many of the difficulties in understanding the problem, both in its haemodynamics and humoral mechanisms. This leads naturally to a review of the pathological physiology of cor pulmonale. The subject of treatment and its problems is expertly presented. Lastly an interesting chapter on epidemiology and pathogenesis of chronic bronchitis is added, and the subject of polluted air, dusty occupations, carbon particles and sulphur dioxide in the air and the problem of excessive smoking in etiology is reviewed. This is an authoritative monograph of interest to all branches of medicine.

A.L.

OPHTHALMOLOGICAL RECORD

A Century of International Ophthalmology—1857—1957. Written at the Request of the International Council of Ophthalmology by Sir Stewart Duke-Elder. Pp. 91. Illustrations. 12s. 6d. London: Henry Kimpton, 1958.

Contents: Preface. Part I. *The International Ophthalmological Congresses.* The First Congress: Brussels, 1857. The Periodic International Ophthalmological Congress. The first Interim Period, 1909-29. The Era of the International Council. Part II. *The International Council of Ophthalmology.* The International Federation of Ophthalmological Societies and its International Relationships. Sponsored Ophthalmological Bodies. Regional Ophthalmological Societies. The Internal Activities of the International Council. The Past and the Future. Appendix.

The author, who is well known in South Africa, has produced an interesting and complete history of the first century of international

ophthalmology in all its aspects. Such an historical survey of one of the oldest, perhaps the very oldest, speciality in medicine, establishes the international nature of co-operation in the interest of ophthalmology up to the present time. A detailed description is given of each of the seventeen congresses held in different countries under the presidencies of outstanding men of international fame. Photographs of these presidents are reproduced.

The first congress was held in Brussels shortly after the ophthalmoscope was demonstrated and before its clinical value was fully appreciated. It was also an opportune time for the discussion of the widespread appearance of trachoma in a virulent form, causing a social and military problem.

At the second congress, in Paris, 1862, the most important landmark in ophthalmology was the presentation of Snellen's test-types; and so, at each of the subsequent congresses something which later became of historical importance as an ophthalmological milestone, is presented in an interesting Duke-Elder style. The immense value of international congresses in the welding of the world-family of ophthalmology into a single unity, is fully stressed. Consideration is given to the problem of holding future congresses. Many aspects of this problem are discussed: the numbers; the value, from a scientific point of view, of attendance by an unmanageable number of delegates; the accommodation.

J. S du T.

YEAR BOOK OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY

The Year Book of Obstetrics and Gynaecology—1957—1958. Edited by J. P. Greenhill, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S. (Honorary). Pp. 597. 33 Figures. \$7.50. Chicago: The Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1957.

Contents. *Obstetrics.* Pregnancy: Physiology. Abortion. Ectopic Pregnancy. Complications. The Toxaemias. Labor: General. Analgesia and Anesthesia. Complications. Operative Obstetrics. Uterine Hemorrhage. Puerperium. The Newborn. *Gynaecology.* General Principles and Diagnosis. Infertility. Operative Gynaecology. Infections. Nonmalignant Neoplasms. Malignant Tumors. Menstrual Disorders. Endocrinology.

This Yearbook contains abstracts of articles taken from journals received between July 1956 and July 1957. In the editorial comments which are written in the form of a discussion, after many of the interesting, new or controversial subjects reference is also made to articles of previous years. As in previous issues, these editorial comments are very good and add to the usefulness of this book. The articles are well quoted—reviews being neither too long nor too short. There is however, a strong American bias in the choice of articles discussed. British and Commonwealth journals are quoted sparingly. One would have liked to read more about the Continental journals. But possibly that would have made the Yearbook unmanageably large.

Its present size makes it a handy reference book for the post-graduate student and interesting concentrated reading for the busy obstetrician and gynaecologist or general practitioner.

J.N. de V.