Book Reviews


This volume dealing with neurosurgical techniques and exposures is extremely well illustrated and a great aid to the young neurosurgeon who wishes to utilize the anatomical details to successfully treat various pathological states. The text book is of great value and is certainly worthwhile to add to a neurosurgeon's library.


Following an introductory chapter outlining the physics and technique of ultrasound diagnostics, the various clinical applications are discussed. For the neurologist, the method may help in the determination of the position of the diencephalic midline and ventricular size, occasionally in the localization of a tumor. H. R. MULLER developed an A scan method that proved useful in the localization of tumors, abscesses and hematomas.

E. S.


The essential part of this book is the author's autobiography, originally written for his family and published 20 years after his death. It gives an excellent insight into the life of a German professor preceding and during the two world wars and in the Hitler area. Of special interest is Bonhoeffer's attempt to explain the mass hysteria of the latter area.

E. S.


This study is based upon 104 cases of brucellosis and 44 controls. The neurological syndromes were more frequent and more pronounced in brucellosis. The largest group was formed by pain syndromes (73 %), discopathy was found in 35 %; inflammatory peripheral neurological syndromes in 27 %. The neurological syndromes appear chiefly in the chronic stage. Antibiotics were used in order to combat the infection inflammation, intravenous vaccine therapy attempted to reduce the allergic component by specific desensitization.

E. S.


The author finds in his material of 975 patients in 38 % a positive family history; however, this figure drops to 16 %, if one considers as positive only cases with epileptic seizures appearing or persisting after the age of 4 years. He is inclined, there-

In the first part various aspects of experimental research are discussed, such as tumor production by topical application and by resorption of carcinogens, tissue cultures, transplantation, anti-brain tumor antibodies, carbohydrate and sterol metabolism, liposomes and cerebral edema. In the second, clinical part particularly the attempted chemotherapy (intravenous mithramycin, intrathecal methotrexate, intracarotid vineristine sulfate) are of interest. 


The large area of neuropsychology is reviewed in this volume by a compilation of previously published articles by leading writers in the field. General conceptual problems, methods, interpretations and applications are considered. Of special interest are examples of research involving drugs. 


This compact, concise book contains a wealth of information regarding the vascular anatomy and circulatory physiology of the spinal cord. The authors point out the potential dangers of these angiographic techniques. Despite their reliance on angiographic studies myelography still remains their initial diagnostic test. The technique of direct surgical intervention is described with intradural ligation or direct excision of the vascular anomaly. Of more interest was the use of selective embolization of the feeder vessels using stainless steel pellets of varying sizes. The initial results appear encouraging and, as they point out, the technique could be used in persons who are poor surgical risks. The case presentations are well documented and the illustrations excellent. The technique of selective arteriography of the spinal cord is one with great potential hazard and should not be undertaken by those with a casual interest in the subject. 

B. NASHOLD, Durham, N. C.


Over the years this volume has grown in size to keep pace with the plethora of scientific papers. The current volume is reduced in length but each author has made an admirable attempt to condense the current literature in a concise and readable text. The section on pain and motor disorders emphasizes the great increase in the information being gathered by the newer neurological techniques such as stereotaxy. The psychiatric sections are well done both for the specialist as well as those working in the allied neurological fields. The bibliographies following each chapter are of great value for those readers interested in the original paper. 

B. NASHOLD, Jr., Durham N. C.

The presentations of this symposium analyze the causative mechanisms and control measures of the precrash-phase and post-crash findings. Of special interest to the neurologist and ophthalmologist is the analysis of extension-flexion injuries of the cervical spine by Gibson.

E. S.


This symposium deals with cellular homeostatic regulators, molecular entities which do exercise homeostatic functions. For the neurologist, particularly the work on the nerve growth factor, a specific protein found in certain mouse sarcomas, in snake venoms, and in the mouse submaxillary gland is of great interest.

E. S.


This book is an outgrowth of a symposium on microsurgical experiences. The surgical microscope and its applications in the surgery of peripheral nerves, particularly the facial, of pituitary tumors, acoustic and spinal cord tumors, transtentorial retrogasserian rhizotomy are described. Several chapters are devoted to microvascular surgery, reconstructive intracranial microsurgery and microsurgery in cerebral aneurysm. Here is a rapidly expanding field into which this book provides an excellent introduction.

E. S.


This book written for young neurosurgeons emphasizes the importance of the neuroanatomical approach for the analysis of neurosurgical problems. There are also detailed descriptions of technical procedures and non-surgical chapters dealing with X-ray and EEG studies, radioactive isotopes, aphasia and endocrinology. Not only beginners in the field, but also experienced neurosurgeons will find the study of this text rewarding.

E. S.


The material presented at this symposium includes clinical studies of infantile and adult motor neuronopathy, epidemiologic and genetic surveys, biochemical analysis of skin, muscle, nerve and body fluids, as well as neuromuscular disorders in lower animals.

E. S.

Book Reviews

The present volume serves the multidisciplinary approach of the foundations of psychiatry. There are contributions on psychiatric genetics (STRÖMGREN), constitution (CONRAD), functional neuroanatomy (HASSLER), neuropathology (PETERS), neurophysiology (JUNG), behavioral pharmacology (ELKES) and conditioned reactions (BRENGELMANN). In all these chapters the high standard of this handbook is maintained. Extensive bibliographies enhance the usefulness of the volume.

E. S.

A short biography of this pioneer of neurosurgery in Germany is followed by excerpts from his neurological and neurosurgical papers and a survey of his physiological contributions (dermatomes, pain conduction etc).

E. S.

According to BULLOCK and HORRIDGE an interneuron is neither sensory nor purely effector-innervating. It connects neurons with neurons. As pointed out by the Scheibels they are repositories of the output pattern for which the afferent signal is but the trigger. In this symposium, the interneuron is considered in invertebrates as well as mammals, in the latter particularly in spinal cord, cerebellum, thalamus and cortex.

E. S.

The life and work of OTTO LOEWI who received the Nobel prize together with HENRY DALE, for the discovery of the chemical transmission of nerve impulses are carefully documented. The bibliography contains brief abstracts of all his papers.

E. S.

The author skilfully presents fairly typical neurological disorders without forgetting the human element of his patients. This should be an excellent refresher course to practitioners.

E. A. S.