Book Reviews


This collection and critical assessment of epidemiologic studies in multiple sclerosis considers all published etiologic hypotheses and should be of interest to clinical and laboratory investigators, statisticians and epidemiologists.

E. S.


Various congenital myopathies (muscular dystrophies, muscular hypoplasia, muscular glycogenoses, nemaline myopathy etc.) are discussed and illustrated by case histories. The importance of laboratory procedures (electromyography, determination of motor nerve conduction velocities and of serum enzymes, biopsy) for the differential diagnosis is emphasized. This symposium represents an excellent survey of this complex subject.

E. S.


In the general part of this text the basic concepts of medicine, its methods of investigation and a medical anthropology are discussed. The special part deals with the principles of somato-psycho-pathology and psychosomatics, the diagnosis, treatment and prognosis. Such a general survey may be useful to students in the beginning of their career.

E. S.


Besides well known subjects (vestibular nuclei discussed by Brodal, excitable membranes reviewed by Grundfest, cerebellar cortical mechanism studied by Eccles), this volume deals with nervous control of skin permeability (Schoffeniels), dentine receptors (Scott), reactions of the visual cortex under constant illumination (Steriade), experimental tremor (Lamarre and Cordeau), influence of attention upon cortical activity (Storm van Leeuwen), cerebral dopamine and convulsive threshold (Heymans), electro-physiological effects of hallucinogens (Longo), maturation of the hippocampus (Passouant), and neurotogenesis of various nervous structures (Laget).

E. S.


This issue presents a cross-section of research on the structure and function of membranes in plant and animal cells. The actual composition of cell membranes, their ultrastructure, possible micellar organization and chemistry, membrane adenosine triphosphatase and cation transport, and the transport of sugars are reviewed. Neurologists will be particularly interested in the chapter on nervous conduction in which evidence is presented that the Na+ ion selective and K+ ion selective channel is separate and independent.

E. S.
Habituation may extensively modify inherited as well as acquired reactions. It is considered one of the most fundamental functions of the brain. In patients with bilateral lesions of the frontal lobes, habituation to cooling of the hands developed more slowly and was less pronounced than in the controls. Feeding of D-L-phenylalanine in rats for 3—4 weeks prevented habituation.

Studying the excitability of the perfused squid giant axon, the author found persistence of excitability with the external media containing no univalent cation. Furthermore, action currents similar to typical ones were obtained from axons perfused internally with dilute sodium phosphate solutions and externally with calcium chloride solutions. These findings are contrary to the assumption that the initiation of the action potential is due to an increase of membrane permeability specific to Na ions. He visualizes the excitable membrane as a macromolecular complex of proteins and phospholipids. Excess of a fixed negative charge at the external layer of the membrane confers cation-exchange properties on this system. Excitation involves a rapid, reversible cation-exchange process. In the resting state, the anionic sites in the membrane are occupied primarily by divalent cations, in the excited state, predominantly by univalent cations. This monograph deserves careful study.

This book is an introductory account of the physiology of the cerebrospinal fluid with clinical ends in mind. Morphological and chemical aspects, the blood-CSF and the blood-brain barrier, the secretion of the CSF, its pressure and acid-base characteristics are thoroughly discussed. The study of this monograph will be very rewarding to students of these problems.

Based upon a careful clinical and histopathologic study of nine cases of ballism the author analyses the consequences of lesions of the corpus subthalamicum, the relationship to and differentiation from chorea, and therapeutic possibilities. In one case operative treatment (cortical incision) was applied. The possibility of sub-cortical stereotactically produced lesions is mentioned but was not tried.

M. S.-A.

Birkmayer considers "psycho-autonomic irritability", "psychoautonomic exhaustion" and "autonomic ataxia" as decompensatory phases of reticular adaptation. Neurogenic disturbances of the gastrointestinal system (Gromotka), the relation of the vegetative system to skin diseases (Thies), to mental pathology (Belloni) and to headache (Heyek) are discussed in subsequent chapters. Harrer outlines the therapy of vegetative disturbances and Dittmar his concept of so-called neurotopic therapy.


The latest knowledge in all disciplines related to rehabilitation of the stroke patient is compiled in this volume. Prognostic guidelines and an outline of the research needs are offered. Neurologists, internists as well as the general practitioner should find this volume of interest.


In the present volume the anatomy and clinic of vascular malformations of the brain and its membranes are outlined by H. Lange-Cosack. The surgical treatment of intracranial vascular malformations is reviewed in two parts. The first dealing with angiomas is written by G. Nörren, the second on treatment of saccular intra cranial aneurysms, by W. Tonnis and W. Walter. The high Standard of this handbook is maintained in the text as well as in the illustrations.


This text describes the usual techniques and applications of electroencephalography. Its special value lies in the discussion of the use of electroencephalography in psychiatry and in legal medicine.


The author attempts to correlate the psychic deficiency syndrome with diffuse and localized EEG changes. Patients with a schizophrenic defect show generalized changes and foci on the right side, whereas those with brain-organic psychosyndrome develop lability of frequency and foci on the left side. Paranoid-hallucinatory, involutionary psychoses are characterized by a positive correlation with high (3 participation in the EEG. These findings suggest that also within the so-called endogenous psychoses, distinct somatic functional changes of the central nervous system are correlated with certain psycho-pathological phenomena. H. Adolf, Philadelphia
**Book Reviews - Buchbesprechungen — Livres Nouveaux**


"The insane live in a double cage: the one they have built themselves around their soul, the other one into which they are imprisoned by society. We have tried to gild the latter one. I was content when my birds felt happy in their gilded cage." The author, chief physician from 1952 to 1956 of a mental institution housed in two aristocratic mansions in the heart of the Hungarian prairie, achieved his scope by means of a "work and joy therapy". Humane and humorous, he has written a book that is entertaining, heart-warming, and informative. 

*H. Adolf,* Philadelphia


This volume reflects the 1965 Düsseldorf Convention of the German Association for Psychiatry and Neurotherapy. The fields indicated by the title were dealt with from the viewpoints of statistics, basic principles, neurobiology, with due consideration given to psycho-, pharmaco-, and sociotherapy.

*H. Adolf,* Philadelphia

**NEWS**

The Society of Biological Psychiatry is offering two annual awards to young investigators and a gold medal to pioneers. For further information contact: *Willamina A. Himwich,* Ph. D., Chairman, Committee on Research Awards, Society of Biological Psychiatry, Galesburg State Research Hospital, *Galesburg,* Illinois 61401. Deadline for manuscripts is February 10, 1969.

The Third International Congress on Neuro- Genetics and Neuro-Ophthalmology is being organized under the auspices of the World Federation of Neurology, and particularly by its "Research Committee". It will be held in Brussels from the 25th to the 29th of August, 1970.

The themes of this Congress will be: "amino acids pathology" and "a gamma-globulinemias". The official languages will be English and French.

For further information: apply to Professor Pierre Danis, 15 Avenue de la Folie Chanson, *Brussels 5,* Belgium.


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