Book Reviews / Varia


In this multidisciplinary integrative inquiry a social psychological approach to human behavior and personality is attempted. The author's ideas are applied to such problems a development of a species universal "cultural rating scale", child rearing practice and effective disorder-preventing measures.  

E. S.


For the diagnosis of a schizophrenia-like emotional psychosis, the author considers the following important: (1) The existence of a situation of emotional tension related to the start of the psychosis. (2) The absence of schizophrenic heredity. (3) The content of the psychosis is easily understandable, often on the borderline of normal. (4) Good affective rapport. (5) Rapid course, often without treatment within 1—4 weeks, without residual defect.  

E. S.


Based on 105 cases, the authors outline the anatomy of the cerebral veins, the topography of the hemorrhagic infarcts in thrombosis of the veins and sinuses and the clinical symptomatology. Not infrequently the clinical picture of an apoplexy results. Two of their cases were operated as brain tumor suspects.  

E. S.


Combining anatomie, radiologie and electrophysiologic studies, the authors have outlined the stereotaxic coordinates of the cerebral cortical and adjacent subcortical areas. Thus, not only the temporal lobes into which previously guided electrodes have been inserted but all parts of the cerebral hemispheres may be approached not only by the rather gross methods of the classical neurosurgery but by the much less damaging methods of stereoecephalotomy. This should be of value for the surgical treatment of a cerebral diseases such as convulsive disorders and also for neurophysiologic studies preceding the production of therapeutic lesions.  

E. S.


Norwegian and Israël V concentration camp survivors (600) have been methodically examined by a former inmate of Auschwitz. Extraordinary stress situations (unknown to psychiatry before 1933) can cause schizophrenia,reactive psychoses, and the so-called concentration camp syndrome; a change of personality and inability to take part in life. Extreme malnutrition and complete isolation after captivity appear as the somatic and psychic reasons for these irreversible deteriorations.  

H. Adolf, Philadelphia

This survey of the rapidly developing pharmacology of the central nervous system reports the effects on single neurones and on central synapses. Special chapters are devoted to catecholamines, tryptamine, a-methyldopa, inhibitory substances and hormone.

E. S.


True to its title, this book dedicated to the well-known psychiatrist Erwin Straus by 22 of his friends and colleagues, aims at a dialogue between Psychiatry and Philosophy, Husserl's phenomenological method being successfully applied to various problems of human existence.

H. Adolf, Philadelphia


The author presents and discusses the major trends that developed since the psychological "revolution" of 1912/13, covering Behaviorism, Gestalt psychology, Psychoanalysis (Freud), Individual Psychology (Adler), Dimension, Factor Theory, Typology, Mass and Group Psychology, while apologizing for the exclusion of Eidetics, Structuralism ("Schichtenlehre"), and Empathy ("Verstehen"). A closer look into Analytical Psychology (G. C. Jung) would have been desirable.

H. Adolf, Philadelphia


The author describes the "restricted-response" method used to elicit and to determine the probability of ESP phenomena. He then surveys the theories devised to explain this so-called psi-ability. The final chapter is devoted to "Parapsychology and the Nature of Man". The author suggests that, at this stage of parapsychology, a purely functional definition of psi be accepted; instead of being opposed to perception, psi should be considered as something akin to imagination. Unable to prove the survival of some part of the personality after death, the study of psi might help us to realize man's potentialities. This shift of emphasis from the study of forces working on man from the outside, to the processes operating within him constitutes the challenge and the philosophical value of parapsychology as a science.

H. Adolf, Philadelphia


This famous book, now in its 25th edition, is excellently introduced by Wolfgang Kretschmer, who explains its continued relevance by pointing out how Körperbau und Charakter, with its idealistic starting-point, its inferences drawn from pathological conditions and its insistence on the organism as a whole, mediates between the extremes of empiricism and philosophic speculation.

H. Adolf, Philadelphia

This embryological study is devoted chiefly to the controversial question whether the pallidum belongs to the telencephalon or to the diencephalon. According to the author, the subthalamus is the site of origin not only of the corp. subthalamicum but also of both parts of the pallidum. The pallidum internum originates from the nucleus entopeduncularis and is later shifted in oral direction.


These lectures attempt to elucidate the relationship between spinal reflexes and cortical and cerebellar motor mechanisms. Based on ablation studies in monkeys, the author deals with the problem of integration of motor behavior. His experiments on the cortex show that the origin of extrapyramidal projections surrounds the rolandic cortex on all sides. This extrapyramidal zone of the cortex responds to stimulation with head and eye movements, awakening, movements of progression. It is assumed that the loss of the integration of these reactions by the cortex releases dystonia.


This new review series will be of great interest to clinicians as well as research workers keeping them informed about the latest advances in this rapidly changing field. In the present volume vascular pain and related vasoactive substances, variants of migraine, methysergide and its association with inflammatory fibrosis, the EEG in headache and muscle contraction headache are discussed by an international group of experts.


This volume is the result of a symposium held in Buenos Aires in 1963. It was attempted to coordinate the data resulting from new cytochemical and ultrastructural techniques, from studies of the movements of ions and water between the different compartments of the brain, from recording of potentials at the glial membranes, and from biochemical studies on isolated glia cells. The role of the glia in myelination, brain permeability and metabolism and particularly in cerebral edema was clarified.


This monograph reports the experiences of the Greater Kansas City Mental Health Foundation in its attempts to develop a comprehensive community mental health center concerned with problems of mental health as well as illness. Among the issues discussed relation to legal and social structures, creative use of laymen, services to children and families, prevention of disturbed behavior, relationship with other agencies are of special interest.

These are closely related hereditary diseases. One finds hypocalcemia and hyperphosphatemia in pseudohypoparathyroidism, but normal serum mineral concentrations in pseudo-pseudohypoparathyroidism; there are, however, transitional forms between the two syndroms. Clinically both types show retardation of growth, shortened metacarpalia and metatarsalia, oligophrenia, calcifications in soft tissues. According to Albright, patients with pseudohypoparathyroidism do not react with increased phosphate excretion to application of parathyroid extracts. The author assumes that the cardinal defect is a disturbances of phosphate transportation in the kidney.

E. S.


For the measurement of the blood flow in tissues thermic methods have the advantage that the natural condition can be preserved to a large extent. Heating elements can be applied to the wall of intact vessels or a heat source can be placed on the surface of an organ. The measurement of heat conduction and of its change on changes of the circulation has become refined. The experiences with these methods and their application to various organs including the brain are briefly outlined in this monograph that should be consulted by anyone interested in circulatory problems.

E. S.

Barrow Neurological Institute: Horizons in Neurological Education and Research. Thomas, Springfield, 111. 1965. 203 p., 70 fig. Price: $ 10.-.

In this volume dedicated to the opening of the Barrow Neurological Institute the goals and methods of neurological education and research are discussed.

E. S.


Based on a study of about 16,000 epileptics the therapeutic applications of various anticonvulsant drugs and their side effects are outlined. A special chapter is devoted to the recognition and treatment of hypoglycemic seizures.

E. S.


Based chiefly on macro- and microelectrode studies in cats the interaction between olfactory structures is studied. Inhibitory mechanisms seem to outweigh facilitation. Stimulation of the contralateral olfactory bulb activates some neurons, inhibits others. In the piriform lobe, a cortical analyzer of sensory input, centrifugal inhibitory impulses to the olfactory bulb originate. The observations in the visual and auditory system that sensory messages may be modified at any point by recurrent circuits could also be repeated in the olfactory system.

E. S.


Various practically and theoretically important subjects were selected in this volume. Anatomical papers deal with the ventral thalamic nuclei and postmortem
observations in Parkinson patients subjected to stereotactic operations and the effects of posterior root section on motoneurons. Clinicians will be interested in papers on myoclonus, the neurological basis of intellectual function, behavior disorders in brain damaged children, developmental dyslexia, human and experimental neuropathy, assessment of spinal cord damage, viral infections, spinal cord disorders associated with cerebral vertebral disease and management of myasthenia. Disturbances of cerebral blood flow are considered from the physiological, pathological and therapeutical point of view.


Following an introductory historical chapter, the functional organization of the brain, the unspecific system of the brain stem, higher cerebral function (memory, conditioned reflexes, motivation), the limbic system and cerebral vegetative representation are outlined. For the Western reader the results of Russian physiologists will be of special interest.

E. S.


Based upon a study of 4 cases and a review of the literature, the author concludes that the myorhythmia of cranial nerves is not a reflex; it differs from tremor by the low frequency, it continues in sleep and is independent of cortico-bulbar connections. A pacemaker with an elementary autorhythmic process is postulated.

E. S.


The author studied the homology and cytoarchitectonics of the various nuclei of the oblongata in birds. His quantitative studies are based on the assumption of a more or less direct relationship between mass and function of the nuclei. The volumetric variations are more pronounced in sensory than in motor nuclei. In the trigeminal and cochlear nuclei the volume of the center seems to be related to the amount of peripheral receptors. However, a relative independence of volume and function is admitted.

E. S.


The sixth volume of this well known series deals with the histology of the plexiform layer of the retina, fixation of carbon dioxide in the brain, spreading depression, the surface of giant nerve fibers, stimulation with sinusoidal AC of medium frequency, gustatory adaptation, biophysics of cortical cells, interaction of spinal reflexes, transmission of impulses in the optic system, Parkinson tremor, analysis of spontaneous cortical discharges, information processing in the nervous system. Most of the reviews reflect the high standard of this series, although they are of somewhat unequal accuracy. The author dealing with inhibitory effects of the caudate nucleus and of the-bon specific thalamus seems unaware of the catatonia produced by chemical stimulation of the caudate nudes (Spiegel and Szekely).

E. S.

Tjising Hager's ophthalmodynamography in 700 neuropsychiatric patients, the following new findings were recorded. With high intracranial pressure, the pressure in the ophthalmic artery decreased despite increase of the brachial pressure. During generalized convulsions due to electroshock, the pulsation volume of the ophthalmic artery rose to double the initial value. Nocturnal arteriosclerotic deliria may be associated with a fall of the ophthalmic arterial pressure. The method is simple, without danger and may be used for serial studies, e.g., for study of therapeutic procedures.

E. S.

VARIA

The distinguished research award in Biological Psychiatry was established by the Society of Biological Psychiatry to honor pioneer work in the field. Nominations may be accepted from members of other scientific associations both domestic and foreign. Nominations should consist of not more than two letters from nominators describing the major achievements of the candidate. This information must be submitted in triplicate to Williamina A. Himwich, Ph. D. Galesburg State Research Hospital, Galesburg, Illinois 61401 not later than March 1, 1968.

The Society of Biological Psychiatry is offering two annual awards of $1,000 and $500 respectively made possible by the A. E. Bennett Neuropsychiatric Research Foundation to scientists 35 years of age or younger. Please submit paper in triplicate to Williamina A. Himwich, Ph. D. Galesburg State Research Hospital, Galesburg, Illinois 61401. Deadline for manuscripts, April 1, 1968.

International Council of Nurses

Since January 1, 1967, Geneva is the headquarters of the International Council of Nurses, the world-wide organization of nurses to which almost all national Nurses Associations are affiliated. The Council decided to transfer its headquarters from London to Geneva so as to maintain closer relations with the World Health Organization and similar bodies. One of the major tasks of the Council is to publish the International Nursing Review. Other publications of the International Council of Nurses is a topical newsletter: ICN Calling, and a series of multilingual brochures containing communications and informations of a more general nature. S. Karger AG, Basel/New York, have recently been appointed the official publishers for all the publications of the International Council of Nurses.

In 1969 the Council — probably the largest women's association in existence — will organize an international congress in Montreal. It is expected that about 12,000 nurses from all parts of the world will attend.