Book Reviews


In an introductory anatomical chapter Hagen discusses particularly the hypothalamus-pituitary system and electron microscopic studies of the peripheral part of the vegetative system. Langemann reviews the autonomie transmitter substances and their antagonists. Neuroendocrine relations and their importance for adaptive reactions are outlined by Bajusz. The close relationship between pain and the autonomie system is stressed by Laux. Dealing with sleep regulation Kayser points out that hypothalamic points responsible for reward or avoiding reactions are not identical with the trophotropic or ergotropic centers of Hess. In a final chapter on thermo-regulation Laborit discusses therapeutic hypothermia and emphasizes the value of sodium 4-hydroxy-butyrate and of phenothiazines. E. S. Kuhlenbeck, H: The Central Nervous System of Vertebrates. Vol. 1, Propaedeutics to Comparative Neurology. XVI+304 p. 14 figures; Vol. 2, Invertebrates and Origin of Vertebrates XVI + 364 p. 238 figures. S. Karger, Basel 1967. Price: sFr./DM 75.- per volume.

The present two volumes are the beginning of a series of five volumes surveying the comparative anatomy of the central nervous system. The first, propaedeutic volume is devoted to theoretic problems of comparative anatomy. The author's attempt at an integrated overall presentation includes a detailed scrutiny of problems concerning the significance of configuration and configurational variety with respect to evolution and in correlated reasonably natural taxonomic classifications. General questions referring to ontogenetic evolution are critically considered and relevant principles of topology are discussed. Volume 2 is devoted to a survey of the nervous system of invertebrates and the theories of the origin of vertebrates. The author is to be congratulated to this opus magnum, and the subsequent volumes are eagerly awaited. E. S.


This volume represents the proceedings of the XIX International Congress for the History of Medicine. In commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the death
of Andreas Vesalius the main part of the Communications is devoted to the life and work of this scientist and his influence upon medicine in the 16th century. For neurologists Economo's biography will be of great interest and for psychiatrists the session devoted to the history of their discipline with papers on the role of "passions" in the psychiatry of the 18th century and reevaluation of the psychologists in the early 19th century German psychiatry. E. S.

A preliminary chapter by Raimondi deals with the ultrastructure of normal brain, cerebral edema, and human brain tumors. The present status of the diagnosis of brain tumors by echo-encephalography and various scanning techniques, particularly gamma-encephalography is reviewed. According to Mundinger, the life span is prolonged by radioactive isotopes, particularly in gliomas involving the frontal and occipital lobe. The treatment of intracranial gliomas by surgery and radiation is outlined by J. L. Pool and R. P. Kamrin; patients younger than 35 years old with a glioma in the cerebral hemisphere have an average survival which is approximately twice that of older patients; the shorter the pre-operative history, the longer the survival period is apt to be.


Outstanding cyberneticians have joined in this volume to honor the father of cybernetics, the study of the methods of communication and control common to machines and living organisms. Neurologists will be interested in papers dealing with inhibition, adaptation, artificial intelligence, information processing perception, development of models of learning, of brain organization, of neurons and Wiener's lecture on "Perspectives in Neurocybernetics".


This volume reflects a symposium on the "Physiological, Pharmacological and Clinical Aspects of Sleep". Introduced by a paper on sleep as a phenomenon of the integral organism by W. R. Hess, whose fundamental work in this area is well known, the book covers integral, microelectrical, molecular and clinical aspects of sleep. It will be of great interest not only to neurophysiologists but also to pharmacologists and clinicians.


The book represents the experience by neurological surgeons concerned with trauma in the Korean War. Spinal cord injuries are discussed by Baldwin, the cranial cerebral trauma by Mayfield and McBride. The methods utilized during warfare for the handling of complications of head trauma such as compound fractures of the skull, penetrating injuries of the brain, associated subdural hemorrhages and infections secondary to penetrating craniocerebral wounds are well documented. Rare complications such as transventricular wounds, injuries to the dural sinuses, air sinuses and the management of cerebrospinal fluid fistula are likewise included. Special chapters are devoted to posttraumatic epilepsy, complications involving injuries to the spinal cord, e.g., the handling of a neurogenic bladder. The chronic states resulting from war injuries such as paraplegia, spasticity, lumbar and disc trauma, and injuries to the peripheral nerves are reviewed. The book is an excellent manual for neurosurgeons.

H. T. Wycis, Philadelphia

The high standard of neurological research in Japan is reflected in these volumes; the contributors are exclusively Japanese authors. Part I deals with autonomic functions, basic mechanisms of vision and hearing, histochemistry, and sub-microscopy of synapses and dendrites, enzymatic and metabolic parameters of behavior and convulsive states. Part B contains not only a great variety of clinical papers, e.g., on the effect of bovine brain hydrate on mentally retarded children, cerebrovascular diseases, multiple sclerosis, hepatocerebral disease, Hallervorden-Spatz disease, stereotaxic procedures, but also anatomical studies (on Helweg's fasciculus) and experimental papers dealing chiefly with psychotropic drugs and sleep mechanisms. As a rule the references are well chosen as to be expected in a series of this high standard, although in the paper by K. Sano on sedative stereo-encephalotomy the author fails to mention that hypothalamotomy was previously produced by Spiegel and Wycis in order to calm down certain schizophrenics. E. S.


This excellent treatise deals with intra- and extradural infections following operations on the supra- and infratentorial fossa. The methods of handling these infections are outlined and other measures such as hypothermia, steroids and anti-biotics are considered. Etiological factors are analyzed. The treatment of intracranial abscesses and aseptic sterile meningitis are handled separately.

H. T. Wycis, Philadelphia

RECTIFICATION

Dans l'article de MM. Chesni, Martin et Yousfi (Analyse introspective des rêves et physiologie cérébrale), publié dans le volume 28, No 3—4, T>T)!?309—320. les passages suivants doivent être rectifiés:

Ligne de citation: Confin. neurol. 28: 309-320 (1966) au lieu de Confin. neurol. 26: 309-320 (1966). Page 311, lignes 32 a 34: ...une déconnexion suffisante d'une partie du réel, déconnexion manifestée du côté de la sensation et du côté du mouvement... au lieu de ...une déconnexion suffisante de l'ensemble du réel, déconnexion manifestée du côté de la connaissance et du côté de l'action... Page 313, lignes 16 et 17: ...par certaines modalités de l'action et par une partie des afférences... au lieu de ...par l'action et par une partie des afférences... Page 316, lignes 15 et 16: ...d'une certaine immobilité et d'une certaine désafférentation... au lieu de ...d'une certaine désafférentation.