Book Reviews

All aspects of cerebral palsy, anatomical changes, clinical types, ocular, auditory and speech disturbances, physiotherapy, neurosurgical and orthopedic treatment, psychological, educational and sociological problems and gynecologic prophylaxis are concisely but expertly discussed in this volume. It can be recommended to all specialists as well as to practitioners interested in this complex field. E. A. S.

The follow-up examinations confirm that leucotomy is of relatively small therapeutic value. However, it is not advisable to give up this method completely; it should be restricted to chronic and such conditions that inflict suffering, and where the syndromes of anxiety-depression, hypochondria and anacasia persist, and where there is no prospect of spontaneous remission. There could not be established a positive correlation between the result of the operation and the extent or the localization of the surgical lesion. The cause of death (5%) was mainly intracerebral or (2 X ) subarachnoid hemorrhage, less frequently meningitis (2 X ), pneumonitis or cardiac failure (2 X ). E. A. S.

The author critically examines whether disorders of adrenalin, hydroxytyramine or of melatonin metabolism play a rôle in the etiology of schizophrenia. He further reviews the disorders of carbohydrate metabolism, the toxicity of schizophrenic body fluids and other metabolic abnormalities. The importance of the newly dis-covered hallucinogenic derivatives of tryptamine shows the narrow chemical gap between chemicals active in brainchemistry and hallucinogenic agents. No bio-logically oriented psychiatrist should miss the study of this monograph. E. A. S.

For the neurologist particularly the clearly written chapter on chemical and nervous control of breathing, central control of respiratory movements, respiratory reflexes from the lung and the excitatory mechanism of the carotid body will be of great interest. E. A. S.

include production of tremor by nicotin, harmin, harmalin, tremorin, of convulsions by electric currents, cardiazol and methioninsulfoximin, of forced circling, catalepsy, phenylketonuria, addiction. The neuropathologic part deals with demyelination, infections, trauma, hydrocephalus, changes of cerebral circulation, increased intracranial pressure, tumors, tremor, malformation and the effects of radiation. This volume will be of value particularly to pharmacologists, experimental neurologists and pathologists.

E. A. S.


In about 5—10% of epileptic patients failure of adequate conservative therapy seems to justify to try operative procedures. Clinical and preoperative electrographic studies are emphasized. There is an increased seizure tendency with numerous foci. Postoperative persistence of spikes in some areas (frontal operculum, posterior temporal region) is of importance. In such cases continued intensive conservative therapy is suggested. Stereotaxic methods deserve more trial. There seems to exist no single epileptogenic or chemical lesion in epilepsy.

E. A. S.


The neurologist will be particularly interested in the chapter on participation of the inner ear in skull trauma. After injury by explosion the permanent hearing loss is progressive. Particularly the 4000 c. p. s. frequency is affected. Previously existing damage is difficult to assess. Hearing impairment in head injuries is explained partly by the acoustic trauma and partly by an effect on the vegetative centers.

E. A. S.


In 75% of 90 rabbits sensitized by homologous spinal cord and Freund’s adjuvans the sensitization was successful resulting in a meningomyelitis with subpial infiltrations, chiefly periventricular foci in the parenchyma and a ganglionitis. Antibodies against lipid-haptens could be demonstrated by a precipitation test. Neurochemical studies showed a pattern of demyelination which is the same for softening due to circulatory disturbances. This monograph will be of interest to all students of allergic conditions affecting the brain and of demyelination.

E. S.


This monograph is based on a study of 407 cases, all supratentorial, since the author is aware that the method is hardly of value in subtentorial tumors. In 121 of 140 tumors of the cerebral hemisphere a correct diagnosis was established. Increased intracranial hypertension as well as midline tumors may induce widespread synchronous slow waves. A 50-channel electroencephaloscope proved not superior as to results in comparison with EEG, while electrocorticographic studies during operation...
help in localization of epileptic disturbances. This monograph will be useful to neurosurgeons and electroencephalographers.

E. A. S.


This monograph presents the author's experiences in the surgical treatment of over 6000 patients with ruptured lumbar discs. The author believes that myelography is "wholly unnecessary in the average patient with ruptured lumbar disc requiring surgery" and he employed this test in only 3% of the last 350 cases operated. There are many neurosurgeons and orthopedic surgeons who would disagree with this view. He favors local anesthesia; in his hands it has proven to be safe and devoid of complications. This monograph includes gems of information concerning diagnosis and surgical techniques and should be read by neurosurgeons and orthopedic surgeons as well as their resident staff.

M. Scott, Philadelphia


This book presents information relative to epilepsy, its diagnosis, precipitating factors, management, medical, dietary and surgical treatment, various services, vocational rehabilitation centers, socio-economic aspects. Although it is primarily directed to non-medical persons, practitioners will find most valuable advice beneficial to their patients.

E. A. S.


Incompletely neutralized mixtures of diphtheria toxin and antitoxin were injected into the peripheral nerves; in a portion of the fibers a segmental demyelination and a certain diffuse swelling of the myelin sheaths developed, apparently due to a disturbance of the biosynthesis of the myelin. The conduction velocity of the sciatic nerve (normally 48-62 m/sec) fell to 85% in mildly paretic and to 48% of the mean normal value in completely paralyzed animals. Even minor alterations of the myelin sheath can greatly impair the conduction of peripheral nerves. It is assumed that an impairment of the insulator properties of the myelin sheath prolongs the conduction time from one node of Ranvier to the next. Destruction of the myelin substance in the vicinity of the node probably produces an increase in the surface of the nodal membrane with resulting decline in current density and subsequent prolongation of the nodal latency.

E. A. S.


According to the author, the aged have overcome their childhood complexes (Freund) as well as the tensions arising from competition (Adler); it is logotherapy (FranU) that can benefit them most, providing them with a total view of their life and helping them to adjust by practicing free choice and learning humor. This book will be of interest to all gerontologists and a translation into English would find receptive readers.

H. Adolf, Philadelphia

This autobiography of one of the founders of modern psychiatry offers much more than the author's personal memories; it vividly shows the development of Kretschmer's thoughts and methods and his influence upon contemporary medicine.

E. A. S.

Komdromy, L.: Dissection of the Brain. Akadémiai Kiadó, Publishing House of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest V. 1961. 124 pp. 52 Fig. Price: $4.50. This is a clearly written and well illustrated guide to the study of the gross anatomy of the brain that will be useful to medical students.

E. A. S.


Based on studies of three schizophrenics, the author tries to reach a better understanding of what constitutes autism. "Nothingness overwhelming existence" is his tentative definition, which follows the thoughts of Binswanger and of Heidegger.

H. Adolf, Philadelphia

Cohen, M. Hf, and Snider, R. S.: Morphological and Biochemical Correlates of Neural Activity. Harper & Row, New York 1964. 244 pp. 141 Ill. Price: $ 8.50. In this symposium the following subjects are reviewed: Inhibition and release of spinal motoneurons by recurrent activity; metabolic relations between glia and neurons; RNA metabolism in the nervous system; biochemical and ultrastructural correlates of cerebral cortex slices metabolizing in vitro; combined morphological and biochemical studies of incubated slices of cerebral cortex; microchemical patho-logy of human cerebral cortex; the relation of the Purkinje cell dendritic branchlets with the parallel fibers; corticocortical connections in the cerebellum; biochemical studies on layered structures; enzymic properties of brain mitochondria; use of glucose and hexokinase as a trap for ATP in cerebral mitochondrial studies; localization of several fluorochromes in cultured neurons. This volume will appeal to morphologists, biochemists as well as to clinicians interested in basic aspects.

M. Spiegel-Adolf, Philadelphia


Using a study of the average motor unit action potential, motor function in the lower extremity is analyzed under normal and pathologic conditions. This study will be of interest to orthopedic surgeons, physiologists and neurologists.

E. A. S.


All aspects of this increasingly important subject, pathogenesis, clinical manifestations, response to various types of treatment, including vascular surgery, are clearly outlined based on the author's vast experience. This book will be a valuable source of stimulating information to clinicians as well as researchers in this field.

E. A. S.

This volume contains a number of chapters of general interest such as use of volunteers in medical virology, the development of a national virological diagnostic service, the program of the world health organization in medical virology, and the application of tissue culture methods in the virus laboratory. The viral carrier state in animal cell cultures, and the growth cycle of arboviruses in vertebrate and arthropod cells have a certain intermediate position. The chapters on the current status of Coxsackie and Echo virus in human disease, on viruria in man and on the natural history of influenza since the introduction of the A2 strain have more bearing on human problems.  

M. Spiegel/Adolf, Philadelphia


The reviews of this volume deal with the chemical specificity of neurons, the histochemical detection of enzyme systems, the relationship between the electrical activity of the brain stem and the release of ACH, microelectrophoresis of cells in the visual cortex and sleep mechanisms. This volume will be helpful to researchers as well as clinicians.  

E. A. S.

Brazier, M. A. B.: Brain Function. Cortical Excitability and Steady Potentials; Relations of Basic Research to Space Biology. Univers. of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles 1963. 394 pp. 129 Fig. Price: $10.-.

This volume is the result of a symposium dealing with the factors and mechanisms maintaining and controlling the excitability of the brain, with particular reference to the physiological role of steady potentials. The following subjects were discussed: synaptic organization, metabolic changes in the cortex during excitation and depression, changes in cortical potentials in learning, in wakefulness and sleep, and in seizures, and finally, the relation of basic neurological research to space science.  

E. A. S.

Merrem, G.: Lehrbuch der Neurochirurgie. 2nd Ed. VEB Verlag Volk u. Gesundheit Berlin 1964. 464 pp. 425 Fig. Price: DM 75,- MDN.

This text book of clinical neurosurgery is based upon lectures held at the University of Leipzig. It gives an up-to-date account including the pathology of cerebral tumors, pneumoencephalography, angiography and electroencephalography. There is a new chapter on cerebral trauma, so that the volume will be useful not only to surgeons but also to neurologists and general practitioners.  

E. A. S.


This monograph offers a thorough analysis of the central mechanism involved in the control of sweating, based on the author's extensive studies of the electrical activity of the sweat glands in cats. Of particular interest are bis findings on inhibitory effects of the frontal lobe, caudate nucleus, anterior lobe of the cerebellum and the ventromedial reticular formation.  

E. A. S.