
The author succeeded in 357 of 398 cerebral tumors to produce cultures of the cells; in mesenchymal tumors, normal epithelial tissues and embryonal brain tissue, bis cultures were successful in nearly 100%, so that bis methods deserve a careful study. Tissue culture of brain tumors may be of practical diagnostic significance, if the histologie sections do not permit a definite identification. The method may also permit the study of cytostatic substances, of onkolytic viruses and of immunologie reactions of the organism.

E. S.


These collected papers of the present director of the neuropsychiatric clinic of the University of Frankfurt/M. represent the best traditions of the Wernicke-Bonhoeffer schools. The author rightly emphasizes the importance of a close co-operation between neurologists and psychiatrists and outlines the principles of an anthropologically oriented psychiatry. Of special historical interest is the psychiatric testimony on Marinus Van der Lubbe who put fire to the German Parliament in 1933. Lubbe is characterized as a psychopathic personality who developed a peculiar akinetic reaction during the trial. The puzzle remains unsolved why a communist should have performed a deed that helped Hitler on his way to power.

E. S.


In this symposium, the interrelationship of emotions, vegetative system and muscular tension is emphasized. Drugs that relax the muscles are also able to induce a psychic relaxation as illustrated by the effect of Diazepam. This drug influences also many vegetative functions. Basic problems are discussed by Hassler; he assumes that the pallidum is an essential place of contact ("Kontaktstelle") between psyche and muscle based on the observation of transient decrease of spontaneous movements after coagulation of the pallidum. Such coagulations, however, may induce an edema of the internal capsule or impairment of its blood supply, which may amply explain the transient disturbance of spontaneous movements. He also mentions that stimulation of the pallidum may diffusely activate the cerebral cortex, but overlooks that bilateral elimination of the pallidum does not prevent cortical activation by the diffuse thalamic system.

E. S.


This monograph is based upon the histologie study of the ocular and cerebral vessels in 125 cases (average age of the patients 68.4 years). In the retina a fibrotic arteriosclerosis and arteriolosclerosis of the vessels was found. Retinal arteriosclerotic
changes are practically always associated with arteriosclerosis in other organs. In studying the intensity of the sclerotic changes, the best coefficient of correlation (r=0.712) was found between eye and brain. A high percentage of cerebral hemorrhages and thromboses (98.4%) is accompanied by retinal arteriosclerosis. In contrast in dementia senilis retinal changes are rare. There is good agreement between ophthalmoscopic and histological findings (coefficient of correlation r=0.893). The author recognizes however, the importance of complementary diagnostic procedures.

E. S.


In recent years, transistors have replaced vacuum tubes in nearly all physiological instruments. This concise outline of theory and practice of semiconductors will be, therefore, very welcome not only to workers in the biological sciences, but also to clinicians who use instruments containing transistors in diagnosis and treatment.

J. B. S.


In this volume to which internationally known authors from Europe, Israël and U.S.A. have contributed, the need to replace the prevalent anatomically oriented neurology with a dynamic approach is stressed, particularly regarding higher functions. This approach is applied to the problems of language and aphasia, muscle functions, apraxias, agnosias, visual space perception, neurobiological effects of colors, perception and personality, pain, posture and psyche.

E. S.


This is a well selected series of reviews discussing how men acquire and use skills, knowledge and information, furthermore, relations between changes in behavior and biological changes. Knowledge about behavior is well coordinated with neurophysiological studies. This issue will be of value to experimental neurologists and psychologists as well as to clinical neurologists and psychiatrists.

E. S.


This impressive monograph is the result of a conference held under the auspices of the International Society for Neurovegetative Research; it contains 37 papers; the introductory chapters describe the development, comparative anatomy, cytology (including electron microscopic studies) of the pineal gland. Further chapters deal with biochemical, physiological, pharmacological and endocrinological aspects, e. g. the influence of this organ upon body blanching in amphibian larvae, its relationship to the thyroid, the gonads, the pituitary-adrenal system and to water and electrolyte balance.

E. S.