Book Reviews


This monograph is devoted chiefly to the cytoarchitecture of the primate thalamus, while its fiber systems are only briefly summarized. The author wisely recognizes that the subdivisions described by various authors within the main nuclei are rather artificial and lack specific morphologic characteristics. These studies will be of interest primarily to comparative neuroanatomists, but may also be of importance to experimenters in selecting the proper species for studying certain thalamic nuclei.

E. S.


Recent improvements in prenatal fetal studies of the heart and the brain by recording of their electrical discharges are reflected in this monograph. A presentation of the development and physiology of these organs, the technique of recording the fetal ECG and EEG, and the clinical disturbances revealed by the methods are presented. These data will be of interest not only to obstetricians but also to neurologists and cardiologists.

E. S.


This book is an expert translation by Miss C. Boulter of the author's German text entitled: Morphologie und Physiologie des Nervensystems. At least some of the deficiencies of the German text mentioned in an earlier review in Confinia Neurologica have been corrected. There is, however, still a considerable inequality in the treatment of various subjects; e.g. 16 pages are devoted to the cochlear system, but only two pages to the vestibular system. The selection of references is also rather arbitrary and the fairness, so characteristic of English scientists, is sorely lacking in this text. As usual, the Oxford University Press performed an excellent job of reproduction.

E. S.


In this symposium, problems such as spinal reflexes and pain mechanism, regeneration in the central nervous system, biochemistry, pharmacology, and clinical problems in paraplegia are discussed by well-known authors. Clinicians as well as basic research scientists will find useful data and ideas in this book.

E. S.


In this International Symposium held at Northwestern University (Chicago), basic mechanisms underlying radiation effects and the clinical aspects of the radiation syndrome are expertly analyzed and discussed; however, Obersteiner's pioneer
work seems to be forgotten. The volume is recommended to neurologists and radiobiologists. 

_E. S._


This monograph provides the anesthesiologist with a firm background in the clinical application of electroencephalography as it relates to his specialty. Here also is a source of information to aid the anesthesiologist in acquiring the skill and judgment necessary to monitor the electroencephalogram intelligently.

_E. S._


The great variability in the size and shape of the skull in various dogs as a rule prevents the application of the stereotaxic method to this species. Physiologists and neuropharmacologists will therefore welcome the authors' attempt to circumvent this difficulty by selecting mongrel dogs and pure bred beagles of the same size for preparation of this atlas.

_E. S._


All aspects of this timely subject are extensively treated in this volume. Of special interest are chapters on pathogenesis of arteriosclerosis, physiology of the cerebral circulation, the use of anticoagulants in vascular occlusion, the discussion of surgery in intracerebral hemorrhage and of hypothermia in intracranial aneurysms.

_E. S._


In this splendid volume neuroanatomy is dealt with in its applications to allied fields, particularly neurophysiology and pathology, clinical neurology and neuro-surgery. Comparative neurology also is not neglected. The excellent illustrations and 80-page bibliography add to the value of this outstanding reference work.

_E. S._


The author presents his method of studying the cerebral circulation by recording the intracranial resistance to an alternating current. Based on over 400 animal experiments and 6000 clinical records, the usefulness of the method for the study of cerebral hemodynamics in various pathological conditions is successfully demonstrated.

_E. S._


The present status of brain research is discussed by Windle (neuroanatomy), Fessard (neurophysiology), Keyp (regional neurochemistry), Bailey (neuropathology),
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Gaddum (chemical transmission), Harris (neuro-endocrinology) and Hassler (brain functions revealed by disease).

E. S.


This second edition has been considerably enlarged and improved. Prenatal and early infantile disturbances, birth trauma, inflammatory and convulsive disorders and psychologic-pedagogic problems are emphasized, so that not only pediatricians and neurologists, but also psychiatrists, obstetricians and general practitioners will find this text of value.

E. S.


In this symposium pioneers in the application of computer techniques to EEG analysis participated. The scope and limitations of harmonic analysis, correlation techniques, recognition of patterns in the EEG, application of averaging techniques to evoked potentials, and digital techniques in neuroelectric data processing are discussed. The reading of these discussions requires a certain knowledge of the subject; in this respect the study of the articles quoted in the references may be helpful.

E. S.


This symposium in which 66 contributors participated, is dominated by the recent advances in the biophysical aspects of neuromuscular transmission. Particularly the problems of myasthenic weakness is discussed in detail.

E. S.


The concept of neural inhibition is traced in the works of physiologists and psychologists, including nearly forgotten names such as Anstie, Brunton, and Tucker. Relevant neurophysiological research, including contributions by Russian scientists is reviewed. Principles governing nervous inhibition are applied to problems of plasticity in behavior, including clinical problems of mental defect, behavior disorders and anxiety. Effects of drugs on behavior are interpreted. The result is the formulation of a new scheme for conceptualization of the organization of behavior.

E. S.


In this volume a wide variety of subjects is expertly reviewed, including muscular physiopathology (biopsy of muscles, muscle tone and involuntary movements), cerebral circulation (circle of Willis; intracranial hemorrhages, use of anticoagulants), surgical problems related to epilepsy and pain, clinical and physiopathological problems (bladder dysfunction, lipid diseases, tropical diseases, respiratory failure, neuropathy, adrenal steroids, memory) and pharmacological subjects (tranquilizers, hallucinogenic drugs).

The author presents a summary of the methods of cybernetics, a description of finite automata theory, and a discussion of the logical background of cybernetics. The application of cybernetics to psychological and biological problems, particularly those relating to cognition is emphasized. Biologists as well as psychologists will find the study of this book rewarding.

E. S.