Book Reviews


This well known text has been revised and enlarged in several respects (e.g. associated movements, the examination of aphasia, prosodic disturbances, cerebral blood supply, Neostigmine and Tensilon tests). However, the presentation of purely clinical methods of observation remains the central theme and will continue to gain new friends to this text.

E. S.


Leriche’s concept of a "physiologic surgery" originated in observations on post-traumatic vasomotor disturbances and the subsequent tissue changes. Accordingly this type of surgery attempts to create conditions in the tissues that counteract pathologic factors, chiefly by influencing the vegetative innervation, e.g. by producing vasodilatation. Thus, the neurologists will find in this volume interesting thoughts regarding the vegetative system, trophic disturbances, the pain problem and the techniques of producing vasodilatation.

E. S.


The present volume supplements the author’s previous monograph on optic agnostic disturbances; it is based on further cases with focal cerebral lesions producing disturbances of color vision or of color agnosia. A large amount of clinically and physiologically interesting observations is presented, but unfortunately this presentation is so closely interwoven with speculations that a very careful scrutiny in reading this volume is necessary to discern between facts and hypotheses.

E. S.


In this volume, 30 authors describe tumors of the central, peripheral and sympathetic nervous system, their classification and diagnosis including encephalography, EEG and use of radioactive isotopes, neurosurgical procedures and irradiation treatment and surgical methods for relief of pain due to malignant tumors. The concisely written and superbly illustrated text will be an excellent guide for practitioners, although there are some minor omissions such as the results of O. Hirsch's nasal approach to pituitary tumors, or the use of the stereotaxic method for puncture of cystic craniopharyngiomas, for interruption of the spino- and quintothalamic fibers in the midbrain or of the thalamofrontal fibers for relief of pain. These methods may have deserved mention, since they are associated with much less damaging side effects than the older methods of neurosurgery.

E. S.

In this Symposium, Classification, clinical and laboratory diagnosis of viral encephalitis, its sequelae, pathology and the control, chiefly of rabies and Polio myelitis, are expertly summarized. Particularly the chapter dealing with the pathologic changes in viral diseases characterized by the presence of nuclear inclusions is outstanding.


The first part of this Conference is devoted to a historic survey of Russian neurophysiology starting with Sechenov and culminating with Pavlov's work on conditioned reflexes. In the 2nd part the activity of the brain during the learning process is studied. It is shown that conditioned reflexes can be established by direct cerebral Stimulation and modified by cerebral lesions. The electric activity of the brain varies significantly with different stages of formation and extinction of conditioned reflexes. The vivid discussions following each presentation enhance the value of this volume.


There is a real need for a book outlining the examination of patients who exhibit disturbances of the more highly organized forms of behavior resulting from organic cerebral disease. This small volume admirably fulfills this need. The theoretical discussions are brief but, in general, sufficient, although some interpretations may invite a discussion, e.g. disturbances of the tactile sense, may be found not only in lesions of the frontal or temporal regions but also of the thalamus.


Using metrazol activation, the authors study in detail the pattern of the epileptic seizure integrating the preictal, ictal and postictal Symptoms with the EEG Findings. The practical diagnostic localizing and lateralizing value of the various patterns is shown and the propagation of discharges arising in various cortical areas is discussed; however the cortical pathways involved are dealt with in much more detail than the subcortical ones. For the latter the authors are frequently satisfied to identify them with the "centrencephalic" system. This monograph will be of great interest to clinicians and electroencephalographers as well as to neurophysiologists.


The author brings order in the rather poorly understood myoclonias, distinguishing one group without and another associated with epileptic manifestations. In accordance with van Bogaert, the myoclonic Syndrome may be schematically...
localized at a cortical level (with focal EEG changes), a subcortical level (basal
ganglia, thalamus) with bilateral, diffuse EEG changes, and a rhombencephalic
level (reticular formation, dentate nucleus).  

E. S.

Tridon, P.: Les Dysraphies de L’Axe Nerveux et de ses Enveloppes Cranio-Rachi-
Based upon embryologic studies, the author shows the pathogenesis; unity of
nervous and osseous dysraphias. He includes in his discussion syringomyelia, agenesis
of the corpus callosum, phacomata, besides the vertebral malformations and
encephalokeles. A special chapter is devoted to a critique of the concept of Status
dysraphicus as outlined by Bremer and Curtius.

E. S.

Publication no. 52 of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington
1959. 240 p., 61 fig., $ 5.75.
In this Symposium held under the auspices of the American Association for the
Advancement of Science, the impact of the evolutionary process upon the brain is
portrayed. Of special interest are the chapters on chemical inducers (Niu), com-
parative neurophysiology (Prosser), evolution of conduction (Grundfest), neuro-
humoral agents (Koelle), drug effects on behavior (Brady), chemistry of the brain
(Page), alteration in behavior after cerebral lesions in man (Teuber), and psycho-
analysis and human behavior (Miroshy).

E. S.

Dow, Robert S. and Moruzzi, Giuseppe: The Physiology and Pathology of the Cere
This splendid volume is the result of the collaboration of an American clinical
neurologist and the head of the Physiological Institute in Pisa. It offers a compre-
hensive review of cerebellar physiology including the results of the latest electro-
graphic studies and a survey of the pathology and clinic of cerebellar disorders.
Numerous personal experiments and an excellent bibliography enhance the value
of this monograph.

E. S.

Varia

A. E. Bennett Award

The Society of Biological Psychiatry is offering an annual award which was made possible by the
A. E. Bennett Neuropsychiatric Research Foundation. The award will consist of $ 500 part of
which is to be used for traveling expenses to the meeting. It will preferably be given to a youngish
investigator and not necessarily a member of the Society of Biological Psychiatry, for work which
has recently been accomplished and not published. The paper will be read as part of the program
of the annual meeting of the Society and will be published with the other papers read at that
meeting in the book: Biological Psychiatry, Volume III. The honorarium will be awarded at the
annual banquet. Please submit paper in quadruplicate to Harold E. Himwich, M. D., Chairman,
Committee of Award, Galesburg State Research Hospital, Galesburg, Illinois. Deadline for
manuscripts is April 30, 1960.