Book Reviews


In view of the renewed interest in hypnosis as a therapeutic agent, this introduction outlining the technique of hypnosis, its indications and contraindications, and its importance in forensic practice is highly welcome. The author wisely refrains from an overestimation of hypnosis as a therapeutic procedure, emphasizing that it can eliminate the patient's Symptoms but that it does not change his personality. Although chiefly written from a practical point of view, the book also contains short theoretical considerations and a critical review of the literature since 1940.

E. S.


The third post-war Conference for psychotherapy was dedicated to the discussion of the psychology of transference. It contains important contributions to the critical appreciation of this phenomenon that has considerable interest in view of its therapeutic possibilities.

E. S.


The present volume of this series will be of special interest to neurologists, since it contains several excellent chapters dealing with neuro-ophthalmological subjects: Kestenbaum's review on nystagmus, François et al.'s review on electro-oculography and Wybar's paper on endoerine exophthalmus. Of more general interest are the chapters dealing with biochemistry of the eye (Pirie) and toxoplasmosis (Straub and Pütz).

E. A. S.


The increased interest of neurologists in treatment fully justifies this volume in which mostly experienced clinicians have collaborated. Of special value are the chapters on epilepsy (Forster), rehabilitation (Bailey), tranquilizing drugs (Fabing), cerebrovascular disease (Glaser).

E. S.


The authors define parapsychology as dealing with nonphysical personal Operations or phenomena, subdividing it into extrasensory perception (subjective experiences of external events independent of the senses) and psychokinesis (physical effects produced by some personal influence without physical intermediation). In one place (page 11) they consider these phenomena as definitely a human capacity, while in another (page 85) they describe extrasensory perception in animals. They believe that one deals with a nonphysical component of the human personality, overlooking that in the evolution of human knowledge many phenomena that appeared supernatural to our ancestors have become readily explainable by physical forces. However, it should not be denied that this is an earnest endeavor to study
these phenomena in a scientific way, to apply rigid controls and statistical analysis. The volume will be of value as an introduction to the methods used by the authors.

Montandon, A.: Les epreuves fonctionelles de l'oreille interne. Editions de Visscher, Bruxelles 1957. 115 p. 41 fig. frs beiges 65.-.

In this volume the principles and technical elements of the various methods of examination of the inner ear, their clinical application and the results to be expected are clearly and concisely outlined. The most recent advances are included such as Fowler's recruitment tests, Egmond's cupulometry, electronystagmography and rotatory threshold determination of the labyrinth which latter method has been developed by the author to a high degree of perfection. Neurologists and neurosurgeons will find much valuable information in this booklet.


This outline of the components of the neurological examination contains, besides the usual techniques, special chapters on language examination, electroencephalography, electromyography and biochemical and pharmacological aids in neurological diagnosis. Neuroophthalmology is well covered, while rather little space is devoted to cochlear and vestibular tests. Not only graduate students, but also specialists will find this volume highly instructive.


The author has undertaken the challenging task of assembling and organizing the data pertaining to the evolution of the human brain from a structural, physiological as well as a psychological point of view. Written in simple language, this book will be of interest not only to physicians and psychologists but also to intelligent laymen.


The increase of our knowledge in the basic Sciences is best exemplified by this Symposium discussing conditions which until recently have been mainly described by clinicians. The lipidoses are not only classified but also studied in their relationship to various leukodystrophies. Various attempts are made to correlate histological and histochemical findings. Quantitative chemical methods and their results are presented. The fact that some are still rather controversial enhances the interest in this book.


For the neurologist especially the chapters are of interest which deal with the membrane equilibrium in skeletal muscle, the active transport of sodium and the ionic transfer in a vertebrate nerve; there is a stimulating general discussion of these chapters by a distinguished panel. The importance of not only dealing with the physiology of Organs but with general physiology is stressed.
This monograph on a comprehensive approach to a selected group of schizophrenics chiefly deals with Rolland’s method, a technique which accents nonverbal communication, possibly the least explored of all the attacks on chronic negativistic schizophrenics. Besides the description of Rolland’s personality which plays an important role in such a therapeutic approach, there is a detailed account of the method as well as evaluations of a number of observers. This makes for some redundancy but it likewise emphasizes a unanimity of opinion that this effort to rehabilitate patients with poor prognoses is of more than routine promise. It should be studied by all who work with chronic schizophrenics.

Herbert Freed, Philadelphia

The increasing trend to correlate old and new biochemical findings with clinical facts has found its expression in this impressive book. For the neurologist the chapters on diseases of the nervous system by R. H. S. Thompson and J. N. Cunings as well as the presentation of lipidoses by S. J. Thannhauser will be of interest, especially since these authors are acknowledged leaders in their fields. The rest of the book is very good reading also for the non-specialist.

M. S. A., Philadelphia

After introduction of the stereotaxic method in neurosurgery by American authors (1947), the authors were the first Europeans who tried this method. The present atlas, the result of their studies since 1949, shows the coordinates of subcortical structures in relation to a line connecting the anterior and posterior commissures. For their teleradiography a distance of 4.2 meter between X-ray tube and film is used in an attempt to avoid distortion by use of “parallel” X-rays. This necessitates a large X-ray room, long irradiation, and centering is rather difficult. The illustrations are excellent; however, surgeons not very familiar with the histology of the subcortex may experience some difficulties in identifying the various nuclei, since a large part of the figures are not lettered in detail. More information about the individual variations would also be desirable. Yet, neuroradiologists and neurosurgeons will find much valuable information in this atlas.

E. S.

In this book the embryology, normal and pathologic anatomy of the vertebral and basilar arteries and their corresponding clinical symptomatology are described. 500 carotid and 250 vertebral angiograms, 200 roentgen examinations of the cervical spine and 400 autopsy specimens represent a wealth of material used to detail this outstanding monograph. It is especially instructive to those interested in a study of the basilar and vertebral artery systems. The illustrations as well as the bibliography are excellent.

J. B. T. Wycis, Philadelphia