Book Reviews / Varia

In this study, all aspects of delirium are thoroughly and critically reviewed. Following a historical introduction, the nosography, general clinical somatic and psychic symptomatology and various clinical Syndromes are outlined. Of special value are the biologic, hematologic and metabolic data. The chapter on pathology includes not only the brain but also other Organs; the importance of changes in the adrenals is stressed. The authors' critical attitude is also reflected in the final chapter on therapy in which the dangers and uncertainties of some modern procedures such as electroshock or ACTH are emphasized. E. S.

In this volume, Rüedi and Spoendlin give a detailed and excellently illustrated description of the otosclerotic ankylosis of the stapes with regard to its surgical mobilization, based on 54 histologically studied cases from the collection of the Zürich ENT clinic. Altmann outlines the historical development, techniques, indications and results of the stapes mobilization Operation. Though the potentialities of the transtympanic Operation for otosclerosis can not be properly evaluated at present, it seems justified to conclude that the mobilization will replace the fenestration Operation to a large but still undetermined extent. E. S.

In 40 contributions, written by experts in their field, practically the whole range of psychology is dealt with from the neurological basis to the military branch and parapsychology. Adherents of all the various scholps are well represented, so that the reader obtains a well rounded view not only of the traditional areas but also of usually neglected ones. E. S.

This book is entirely concerned with the practical problems encountered in the care of neurological patients. Though essentially a practical book, the principles underlying treatment have been fully detailed. Its text has been written primarily for nurses, but physicians will also find in it many practical suggestions helpful for a better care of their patients. E. Sp.

Katzenstein, Erich: Das Schädelhirntrauma. Benno Schwabe & Co., Basel 1956. 992 p., 592 fig. SFr. 70.70.
This monograph on cerebral trauma is based on a thorough comparative clinical and anatomic study of 81 patients who survived from a few hours to 36 years after
the accident. However, also the experimental research and the analysis of the basic physical
changes, the physiopathology of the disturbances of consciousness, of the cerebral circulation
and of intercranial pressure are discussed in detail, so that a study of this volume will be
rewarding to everyone interested in this complex field.

E. S.

Henke, Lubarsch und Rassle (Edit.): Handbuch der speziellen pathologischen Anatomie und
Bildtafeln. DM 94.-.

The present volume deals with the morphologic changes described in clinical
entities such as dementia praeox, idiocy, mongolism, epilepsy, cerebral palsy. A
short chapter is also devoted to possible mechanisms related to manic depressive
psychosis, though a pathologic anatomy of this condition is unknown. The chapter
over malformations includes syringomyelia, tuberous sclerosis, Recklinghausen's
and Sturge-Weber's disease. Final chapters deal with the pathology of the meninges,
of the choroid plexus and the ependyma of the ventricles, including hydrocephalus.
A thorough analysis of the pertinent literature as well as excellent illustrations
characterize this volume similarly to its predecessors and make it an indispensable
reference work for clinicians and pathologists.

E. S.

Handbuch der speziellen pathologischen Anatomie und Histologie. Hrsg. von Henke, Lubarsch
Erkrankungen des zentralen Nervensystems I.
Bandteil B: X+753 S. 356 zum Teil farbige Abbildungen. 1957. DM 596.-.

In the first part, the histopathology of degenerative processes, including histo-chemical findings,
is outlined by W. Scholz. Scholz objects against an explanation of the disintegration of the
myelin sheath by disturbance of the surface tension, that one often finds axon fragments
surrounded by myelin. This can of course occur as a secondary process, and it seems rather
questionable whether an explanation of the disintegration of the myelin sheath by loss of a
mystical trophic and histodynamic influence of the nerve cell is preferable to a physicochemical
explanation, Secondary, retrograde and transsynaptic degeneration is discussed by H. Jacob,
senile involution, senile dementia and Alzheimer's disease by A. v. Braunmühl, familial
amaurotic idiocy by G. Friedrich, myoclonus epilepsy, spastic pseudosclerosis and infantile
progressive poliodystrophy by H. Noetzel, Pick's disease by Th. Liiers and H. Spatz,
degenerative diffuse sclerosis and various types of extrapyramidal disorders by J. Hallervorden
and W. Eicke, cerebellar atrophies and Friedrich's ataxia by G. Ule, diseases of the motor system
and combined System diseases by G. Friedrich. The second part is devoted to disturbances of
the blood supply and their sequelae. It includes discussions of the normal blood supply (R.
Lindenberg), of physiologic observations (S. Cobb), of functional disturbances, anemia and
hyperemia (M. Nordmann), cerebral edema and brain swelling (M. Reichardt), elective
parenchymal necrosis and topistic disturbances of vascular origin (W. Scholz), hemorrhage,
thrombosis, softening, embolism,
arteriosclerosis and hypertension (H. Meesen and O. Stockdorph), aneurysm (W. Krauland), endangitis obliterans (W. J. Eiche), periarteritis nodosa (B. and K. Walthard), neurotic subacute myelitis (G. Bodoechtel and F. Erbslohe), decompression sickness and atmospheric hypoxidosis (W. Haymaker and H. Strughold), and strangulation (H. Jacob).

The editor has succeeded in producing a well integrated text despite the numerous contributors. Only in some instances, the contributors are not quite up to date e.g. the mechanism of choreoathetosis (p. 790) is explained by interruption of a suppressor-circuit passing through the pallidum, although numerous experiences have shown that pallidal lesions produce hypokinesis and not hyperkinesis. Also in the chapter on paralysis agitans the author seems to be unaware of recent experimental work. The chapter on combined system diseases is without any illustrations. These are, however, only minor defects in an otherwise superb volume.


This book represents Paul Federns collected papers. The concept of Federn's Ego differs from that of Freud to some extent; it is a dynamic, not a theoretical concept, a psychic experience. He studies the ego functions in dreams, neuroses and psychoses, but is rather sceptic regarding the effect of psychoanalysis in psychoses. New and different from Freud's is his dualistic concept of a bodily and a psychic ego. Noteworthy are particularly the chapters on narcism as well as that dealing with depersonalization and estrangement.—These are only some highlights of this volume that must be read to be fully appreciated.


This brief but clearly written outline emphasizes the integration of psychiatry with general medicine and the importance of psychosomatic conditions. It will serve as a useful introduction for general practitioners.


This monograph attempts to advise the neuropsychiatric examiner dealing with insurance cases in regard to "abnormal reactions" that simulate organic disorders. Although the book is written chiefly from the point of view of German social insurance laws, the author's differential diagnostic considerations will be of interest also to neuropsychiatrists in other countries.

Varia

Du 29 au 31 août 1957 a eu lieu à Zürich le 1ère Congrès International de la Psychothérapie du Groupe.