Book Reviews

F. S. Rothschild: Das Ich und die Regulationen des Erlebnisvorganges. S. Karger, Basel 1950. 388 pages, sFr. 36.40. The author attempts to understand the relationship between mind and body from the psychic point of view expanding Freud's metapsychologic theories, his ideas of eros and thanatos, and Klages' polarization hypothesis. For the psychiatrist particularly the application to Psychopathologie problems will be of interest. E. S.

P. H. Hoch and R. P. Knight (Editors): Epilepsy. Psychiatric Aspects of Convulsive Disorders. Grüne and Stratton, New York 1947. 209 pages. This volume discusses briefly neurophysiological mechanisms especially in relation to electroencephalographic findings and advances in the treatment of epilepsy. Psychiatric aspects are stressed, particularly antisocial tendencies, the Personality of the epileptic, and the psychopathology of organic brain damage. Two chapters deal with experimental problems, one with production of epilepsy in animals and the other with sound induced convulsions. E. S.

J. Creyssel and P. Saire: Choc Traumatique, 2nd Edition. Masson et Cie, Paris 1949. 340 pages. Starting with an analysis of the clinical Syndrome, the authors offer a careful study of the physiopathology of traumatic shock. They emphasize the reflex effect of noceceptive impulses upon neurovegetative centers and the resultant vasomotor and endocrine, particularly suprarenal disturbances. A detailed description of the therapeutic measures and an up-to-date bibliography greatly increase the usefulness of this monograph. E. S.

The author, who has devoted 10 years to an anatomical study of the vascular nerves of the various parts of the body, summarizes our knowledge of the anatomy, physiopathology, and neurosurgery of the neurovascular system. The critical analyses of vascular pain and of the various neurosurgical procedures deserve particular interest.

E. S.

H. Reisner: Die akute Polyneuritis und Polyradikulitis. W. Maudrich, Wien 1949. 74 pages, 8 figures. sFr. 22.50.

This study is based upon 77 cases, most of which were observed by the author himself. Depending on the clinical course, he distinguishes forms frustes, the Guillain-Barré type, an amyotrophic Polyneuritis, an acute type with relapses, the Landry type. Regarding the pathogenesis, a bacteriotoxic, an allergic, and an avitaminotic form are recognized.

E. S.

M. Deparis: Neuralgies da Glosso-Pharyngien. Masson et Cie, Paris 1949. 154 pages with 5 figures. ffRs. 360.—.

Since Weisenburg's original work, glossopharyngeal neuralgia has been observed in over 100 cases. These experiences are critically reviewed in the present monograph by an author who has devoted over 20 years to the study of various neuralgias. He stresses the multiple anastomoses between the glossopharyngeal nerve and the facial, the vagus and the cervical sympathetic. These anastomoses explain the transitory nature of the motor and sensory disturbances following radicotomy of the 9th nerve and also the recurrence of the pain observed in some instances after this operation. This book will be of value not only to neurologists and neurosurgeons but also to otologists and stomatologists..

E. S.

K. Th. Dussik: Zentralnervensystem und Sauerstoffmarigelbelastung. Wilhelm Maudrich, Vienna 1949. 157 pages, 33 figures. sFr. 27.—.

Prompted by experiences on flyers, the author studied the relationship between hypoxemia and hypoglycemia. Hypoxemia is a stimulus inducing increased output of adrenalin as well as of insulin. Depending on the general demands of the organism, anoxemia may induce increase or decrease of the bloodsugar. The author proposes the use of anoxemia as a functional test of the central nervous system and he demonstrates this in cases of turriccephalus. The observation that anoxemia induces cerebral vasodilation is the starting point for therapeutic experiments in cases of migraine and of post-traumatic disorders. However, it is somewhat difficult to understand why cerebral vasodilation should stop the pain of migraine, a condition that is benefited by a vasoconstrictor such as ergotamine. It is to be hoped that further studies will clarify these discrepancies.

E. S.


This handy volume gives a survey of the results obtained in the first 10 years of the medical use of radioactive isotopes. In a concise but understandable form, it presents all the information necessary for an intelligent planning of future use of therapeutic isotopes. Practical advice as to Instrumentation, availability and means of procurement of isotopes, and Organization of hospital departments is added. This book should be of real value to the radiologist, physician and radiobiologist.

This is an excellent introduction to neuroanatomy; the text is clear and concise, and the author successfully attempts to describe spatial as well as functional relationships. Outstanding illustrations add to the value of this book.


In the 3 decades since its introduction the value of pneumoencephalography in the diagnosis of cerebral diseases, particularly the localization of brain tumors, has become firmly established. The present book maintains the high standard of the previous volume on "The Normal Encephalogram" by Davidoff and Dyke. Since the work is intended for all those interested in neurological diagnosis, its scope was broadened to include the fundamentals of neuropathology of brain tumors. The roentgenographic changes are correlated with bedside observations, and illustrative case histories are frequently added so that the book will be of great value not only to radiologists but also to neurologists, neurosurgeons and psychiatrists.


The purpose of this book is the interpretation of otologic observations in the light of our present knowledge of the physics of sound and of the physiology of hearing. Audiometric patterns for the various otologic conditions are described and illustrated. The concise and easy style will make this book a convenient guide in this relatively new discipline; it will be of value not only to otologists and neurologists but also to psychologists, internists and pediatricians.


This carefully prepared bibliography covers physiological studies, the normal EEG under various conditions, reactions to drugs, neuropsychiatric disorders including electroshock and frontal lobotomy. It will be an invaluable aid not only to encephalographers but also to neurologists and psychiatrists in general, as well as to neurophysiologists, pharmacologists and psychologists.


The 2nd edition of this fundamental work shows the remarkable advances in the field of psychosurgery during the past 8 years. While in the 1st edition published in 1942 80 cases were reported, the authors are now able to base their conclusions on more than 1000. Their most important discovery is the favorable influence of lobotomy on the emotional reaction accompanying pain, particularly in patients suffering from malignancy. The authors were able to keep track of almost every patient so that the long term results of prefrontal lobotomy can be presented. Other psychosurgical procedures such as topectomy, cortical undercutting and thalamotomy are only briefly mentioned except for transorbital lobotomy. Freeman considers this latter procedure to be simple, quick, effective and safe to entrust to the psychiatrist, while Watts believes that any procedure involving cutting of brain tissue should remain in the hands of the neurosurgeon. This volume should be carefully studied by anybody interested in somatic treatment of psychoses.
There are numerous rather excellent French textbooks of neurology. It may seem astonishing, therefore, that an English Neurology has been translated into French. The answer is to be sought in the originality of Walshe's book, its clear and concise style and practical orientation. M. Jequier's translation is not only elegant; it reflects faithfully the ideas of the original text.

(Review copy from Georg & Co., Geneve) E. S.

Starting from the fact that the pathogenesis of many cases of opto-chiasmatic arachnoiditis is obscure, the authors attempt to prove that this disease is due to a reflex vasodilation, associated with abnormal capillary permeability. This vasodilatation results from non specific factors (sinus infections, general virus infections, trauma) that act in the presence of a certain predisposition; the latter is caused chiefly by endocrine imbalance. This challenging theory should arouse the interest of ophthalmo-neurologists, and it is to be hoped that its validity will be tested in an adequate material.

E. S.

Genetic Neurology, the study of all processes involved in the maturation of the nervous System was the subject of the first meeting of the International Conference on the Development, Growth, and Regeneration of the Nervous System held in Chicago in 1949. This volume was written by the members of the Congress after they had met and compared their views. It embodies the views of the most outstanding international authorities in the field and should be of the greatest interest not only to the research worker but also to clinicians interested in problems of regeneration of the nervous System and the development of behavior.

E. S.

This is one of the most thorough studies of the changes induced by prefrontal leucotomy. 300 patients, operated upon by McKissok, have been interviewed before and after Operation by the author who had to travel over 60,000 miles to follow his patients. Using the "oldfashioned" methods of clinical interview and refraining from the fashionable psychometric tests, the author seems to have obtained a deeper insight in the sequelae of this Operation than most students of this subject and he presents his results in a delightful (style. This book should be read by everyone interested in psychosurgery.

E. S.

In one-third of 124 cases of methylalcohol poisoning, the author found bilateral Symmetrie neerpses of the putamina. This finding is considered as a new example of Vogt's pathoklisis. Death is due chiefly to collapse of the peripheral circulation.
The poisoning is not caused by the methylalcohol directly, but by formation of formaldehyde in the organism. The liver is severely affected by a serous inflammation. The author suspects that cirrhosis of the liver and amblyopia in some chronic alcoholics are due to chronic effects of methylalcohol.

E. S.