Book Reviews


"Psychiatry in transition" presents 15 communications read at the symposium in Bad Kreuznach in 1968. The authors cover a variety of problems in modern European psychiatry. The results of research in somatic disease are related to the treatment of mental disorders. The contributions deal with chronic and acute somatic diseases, such as cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and neurological disorders. The book also includes discussions on the impact of modern treatments and technologies on psychiatric care. It is recommended for neurologists, psychiatrists, and other health professionals who are interested in the latest developments in the field of psychiatry.

Operative Neurosurgery, vol. 2 presents the major neurosurgical operative procedures involving the posterior fossa, spinal cord, peripheral nerves and sympathetic chain. The anatomical topography is described by L. G. KEMPE and illustrated by excellent figures which show the step-by-step surgical technique. The book is based on the experience of the famous neurosurgeon L. G. KEMPE at Walter Reed General Hospital in Washington DC. It is an atlas with 290 partly colored figures and short descriptions. Besides tumor and vascular surgery, other important chapters like cordotomies, repair of myelomeningocele, hypoglossal-facial anastomosis, rhizotomies of the trigeminal, intermedius and glossopharyngeal nerves for intractable pains are included. The posterior and anterior approaches (Cloward technique) in cervical disc protrusions are illustrated with excellent figures. It is an atlas with 290 partly colored figures and short descriptions. Besides tumor and vascular surgery, other important chapters like cordotomies, repair of myelomeningocele, hypoglossal-facial anastomosis, rhizotomies of the trigeminal, intermedius and glossopharyngeal nerves for intractable pains are included. The posterior and anterior approaches (Cloward technique) in cervical disc protrusions are illustrated with excellent figures.

The first edition of this collection of biographies of psychiatrists, neurologists, neurosurgeons and scientists engaged in brain research was a considerable success. Most of the writers knew the scientists personally, not only his scientific achievements.
ments but also their whole personalities. The descriptions are therefore close to life and may not only stimulate young physicians and researchers but also fascinate other educated people interested in the history of brain research. The first volume, published in 1955, has long gone out of print and this second edition was overdue. The 21 biographies reaching from Berger to V. Jauregg and from Cushing to Pavlov are essentially unchanged. New are a 'genealogy of neuro-psychiatrists' and a list of the chairs of neurology, psychiatry and neurosurgery in the German speaking world. The author has to be congratulated for his initiative.

We would welcome a translation in English. H. E. KAESER, Basel

Drugs. Development and use. Special issue of Brit. Med. Bull. vol. 26. No. 3, 1970. Professor D. R. Laurence, the scientific editor of this number, observes in his introduction: 'The primary intention of this issue... is to offer physicians a readable summary of important, but less familiar, topics that are of significance to the development and use of drugs.' This number serves as a companion to the 1969 issue of the same periodical 'Mechanisms of Toxicity.' The chapters are of considerable interest: 'Conquest of microbic disease by drugs'; 'New drugs changing the mortality...'; 'Advances in psychopharmacology'; 'Industrial practice and drug toxicity'; 'Value for man of toxicological test in laboratory animals' and 'Thrombosis and the pill,' etc. H. E. KAESER, Basel