Book Reviews


Psychiatry in transition. 37 communications on reintegration of psychotic patients and 4th Kreuznach Symposium in 1969, summarized by Kranz. The contributors deal with severe problems in modern European psychiatry. The first 3 papers by Wettereth, Selbach and Ehrhardt discuss modern trends in university teaching and in the management of psychiatric hospitals with the tendency to give up antiquated hierarchical structures. Petersen and Englemann present psychopharmacological problems: The necessary but at times equivocal cooperation of drug-producers with clinicians, and the changes in treatment psychiatry has to consider in view of new, behavior influencing medications. This leads to contributions by Heidegger, Wiesler and Lehre about social psychiatry and rehabilitation. It is shown that the beneficial effect of modern psychotropic drugs in psychosis may be lost if the social surrounding of the patient is not sufficiently considered and adequately influenced. The combination of pharmacotherapy with sociotherapy will produce the best results for reintegration of psychotic patients, Schüller shows by the example of observations in the end of depressive phases that the minute details to be noted in individual cases can still lead to valuable psychiatric insight which might be overlooked if only typical symptoms to be found in great numbers of patients are examined. Janzak discusses structural changes in personality induced by dynamic disturbances in acute psychosis. Lange pleads for combination of techniques in psychotherapy adjusted to social needs and possibilities. Bocizik and Poldinger deal with modern techniques of collecting, processing and analyzing data, and Schiffer presents personal experiences with clinical documentation by electronic data-processing methods in a psychiatric clinic.

The contributions are indeed heterogeneous, but they fit well into the general theme of the book. They review in short and precise articles many possibilities and new methods in treatment and investigation, and the reflections on reforms to be planned in teaching and hospital-management are a valuable contribution to the actual discussions of these problems.

M. Linder, Basel


Karl Bonhoeffer (1886-1948) has been an important personality in German psychiatry. His name became famous for his work on acute psychoses accompanying somatic diseases published in 1911. After having acquired wide-ranging neuropsychiatric experience at the clinic of Breslau under the directorship of Wernicke he was nominated professor of psychiatry in Königsberg, Heidelberg, Breslau and, 1912-1937, in Berlin. It was mainly by his personality and exemplary attitude that he exercised longlasting influence upon a generation of German psychiatrists. Former colleagues and co-workers of Bonhoeffer present this book for his hundredth birthday. The main contribution of the publication however comes from Bonhoeffer himself: Reminiscences he had written for his family are made accessible.

376

Book Reviews


This is the German translation of the already well-known English edition. ‘Neurolological examination of children’. A great amount of information is condensed into 300 pages but nevertheless the book can be read fluently and with pleasure. The first third of the book is devoted to some frequent symptoms as e.g. hypotonia or enuresis, to the assessment of mental and speech development and to the examination of children. In the following 150 pages the special techniques of examination of head and spine, cranial nerves and of the motor and sensory system are described. The last 50 pages are concerned with the most important ancillary examinations. The reader is not only taught the special techniques of examination in child neurology but also the evaluation of many findings. This book can be read with profit by both neurologists and by paediatricians and can be recommended to all those who prefer a good German translation to the English original edition.

F. Vasella, Berne


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 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. Krämer at Walter Reed General Hospital in Washington DC. It is an atlas with 290 colour figures and short descriptions. Besides tumor and vascular surgery, other important chapters like Book Reviews

377

cavernous angiomas, 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. Krämer’s Operative Neurosurgery is an outstanding description of the classical and modern techniques and can be recommended to every neurosurgeon. It will be also be appreciated by neurologists and general surgeons.

H. E. Kästle, Basel


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 by his scientific achieve
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. Jarcheggi and from Cushing to Pawlow 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. Käser, Basel


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. Käser, Basel