Book Reviews


This book, which is written from a purely clinical point of view, contains a review of electromyographical examinations with needle electrodes of 1,190 patients from the author's own laboratory; 141 of the patients were investigated by muscle biopsy. The first five chapters deal briefly with the method, materials and a general evaluation of the EMG findings. The results of the author's EMG examinations are dealt with in chapter six. The first part includes studies of some spinal muscular atrophies, such as Kugelberg-Welander, Werdnig-Hoffmann infantile spinal muscular atrophy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and others. The second part deals with some polyneuropathies, and the third, perhaps the most important one, with myopathies, progressive muscular dystrophy, dystrophia myotonica and especially polymyositis and related disorders. The EMG examinations are concluded with the case histories of several patients. In the last chapter, the author's practical methodical experiences in needle electromyography are discussed. He gives his evaluation of the importance of the EMG findings for clinical practice in connection with the different neurological diseases.

Unfortunately, the examinations of some of the groups of patients, especially the polyneuropathies, are not completed by nerve conduction velocity measurements, which would be very helpful in the clinical diagnosis.

The book contains a large number of references and a subject index. It will be of some interest to physicians working in the fields of neurology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, and to other physicians looking for a deeper knowledge of these problems.

V. Skoril


The second edition of Poeck's 'Introduction to clinical neurology' is now presented under the title 'Neurology', as a textbook for students and physicians. More than a hundred pages are added to the former edition. First an excellent, concise survey is given of clinical and paraclinical methods of investigation, which are useful to everybody who has to deal with neurological patients. It is restricted to signs and symptoms which really might lead to a diagnosis. Part II gives an excellent survey of the neurological syndromes, based on the latest neurophysiological information; here the chapter about neurophysiological disorders merits a special mention. A section also presents the neurological diseases divided into nosological entities: disturbances of circulation, space-occupying lesions, epilepsy and other paroxysmal affections etc. A chapter dealing with neurological disturbances caused by toxic agents is added to the new edition. The reader will always find a pragmatic discussion about differential diagnosis, making the book a helpful guide for students and practitioners. One of the characteristics of the book is its comprehensiveness, which is always based on actual facts. The author discusses the therapy thoroughly and opposes the antiquated nihilism often shown in this field. The student can understand from this book that the neurologist depends today on close co-operation with other special branches of medical science, for instance neurosurgery, which 'the Poeck' presents in complete and up-to-date form. This is undoubtedly the best text book on neurology in German.

F. Corbat, Basel

Varia

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