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French translation of a manual on vertigo, previously published in Dutch. Its first part provides concise information about the structure and physiology of the vestibular organ. The second part informs about the methods of vestibular examination and in the final part the symptom of vertigo is carefully analyzed with respect to its importance as a leading symptom of vestibular disorder. Recommended as a very instructive clinical guide in the field of neuro-otology for French-speaking ologists, neurologists and ophthalmologists.

C.R. Pfaltz, Basel


The second part of volume 5 provides a detailed and complete review of the physiology of the cochlear nerve, the primary and secondary acoustic centers within the brain stem and of the auditory cortex. An interesting chapter is dedicated to physiological studies of the efferent recurrent auditory system (olivo-cochlear and centrifugal extra-reticular-auditory-control system), which is followed by an investigation of the influences of the external and middle ear on auditory discrimination. The following chapters are covering the subject of behavioral mechanisms in hearing and psychoacoustics (Scaling-localization of sound, binaural analysis).

Parts 1 and 2 of volume 5 assemble fundamental knowledge on the morphological and physiological data, which are needed for a better understanding of the underlying pathophysiological mechanisms in hearing disorders, a subject which will be the topic of the 3rd and last part of volume 5.

C.R. Pfaltz, Basel


The 3rd and last volume of this operational manual is entirely concerned with surgery of the ear. The rather impetuous development of this particular field of otology is reflected by the content of this textbook showing the enormous technical improvement achieved in the whole range of operations carried out in otology: surgical management of traumatic lesions of the temporal bone; otogenic intracranial complications; surgery of otosclerosis and congenital malformations of the external and middle ear; tumour surgery of the temporal bone; plastic and reconstructive surgery within the whole field of otology, and finally neurological microsurgery of the ear including the facial and stato-acoustic nerve, the internal acoustic meatus, and the transpetrosal approach of cerebello-pontine-angle tumours.

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Hence, it follows that surgery of the ear is no longer confined to the mastoid and to the structures of the middle ear, but has partially become an interdisciplinary surgical field for otologists, plastic and neurosurgeons. For those reasons, some chapters had to be written by selected experts of the other specialities and their contributions furnish extremely useful additional information to the otologist who wants to extend his surgical activities to the borderlands of his speciality.

In conclusion, the fact must be confirmed that both the editor and his co-workers have reached the goal they had set when they started to outline this unique operational textbook. They have accomplished their difficult task and there is now an extremely instructive textbook of surgery available – well balanced in text and illustrations – which covers practically all the aspects of modern surgical interventions carried out in the field of oto-rhinolaryngology and its borderlands.

C.R. Pfaltz, Basel

F.-W. Oeken und L. Kessler (Hrsg.): Fehler und Gefahren bei Routineeingriffen im HNO-Fachgebiet. VEB Verlag Volk und Gesundheit, Berlin 1975. 230 pp., 44 fig., 42 tab.; DM44.-.

In this monograph (Sources of errors and dangers in routine ORL surgery), the ENT surgeon is made familiar with medico-legal problems and juridical consequences of malpractice in a socialistic society. One of the most interesting chapters is the introduction of the reader in medico-legal aspects of surgical interventions with respect to penal law and medical liability in a marxistic society with a well-organized public health service. Of particular interest is the interpretation of ‘collective medical responsibility’ of medical teams in hospitals or other public health service institutions. Professional competencies of the individual are strictly regulated by disciplinary rules (Dienstanweisungen) and responsibility depends both on scientific and educational (in the largest sense of the word) qualifications. These regulations as well as a rigid organization of the various medical services should guarantee efficiency in medicine and prevention of professional failures and malpractice. Finally, the authors emphasize that socialist law is in perfect agreement with medical ethics and that this essential cognition should grow more and more on all those who are deeply concerned with medicine.

The following chapters deal with various aspects of ORL surgery (anesthesiology - indications – topographic problems – secondary interventions – traumatology – etc.).

Summing up: a rather instructive work of reference which is particularly helpful for those concerned with medico-legal experteses in our own speciality.

C.R. Pfaltz, Basel