
This beautifully produced volume is a record of the eighth annual scientific meeting of the Houston Neurological Society. A total of 343 of the 567 pages is devoted to hydrocephalus, including experimental production, genetics, pathological and radiological aspects, and clinical types. There are valuable contributions from workers from far afield, such as those of Donald Matson from Boston, George Anderson from Rhode Island, Julius Metrakos from Montreal, Sigvald Refsum from Oslo, and William Windle from Bethesda. Donald Matson contributes a useful chapter on the clinical evaluation of an infant with hydrocephalus, and Robert Pudenz writes a short section on the surgical treatment without, however, giving an account of the many clinical problems presented by the care of child with Spitz Holter valves and other shunts, or of the important and interesting pathological processes associated with them. It is to be regretted, in fact, that when the pathological aspect of hydrocephalus has been so comprehensively covered, the clinical side is too brief to be of great value.

Other sections of the book are devoted mainly to prenatal factors in relation to neurological disease, including brief discussions on the role of virus infections during pregnancy, on irradiation and on biochemical defects.

Many other important prenatal factors relevant to neurological disease are not mentioned, and much more detailed reviews of the role of virus infections and genetics are readily available elsewhere. Nevertheless, the chapters are authoritative and up to date.

This is not a clinical book, but it contains a great deal of useful information concerning the background of some of the neurological problems which confront paediatricians. Anyone concerned with such problems would certainly profit from reading this book, and should have it in his library.


This is the second edition of Dr. Leider’s book which is aimed he says at busy paediatricians and general practitioners. It is plainly worth having a book of this sort because it provides a rapid answer to the question—‘Does this disease occur in childhood?’—as well as looking at things from a special perspective. By p. 358 Dr. Leider has dealt with 120 common or important dermatoses, and in the final chapter he disposes of 100 minor or uncommon dermatoses. He provides numerous tables with tabulated information. Plainly a man of great experience, he knows and expresses the difficulty of dealing with the child (and its mother) afflicted with skin disease. His views on the relation of psyche to soma in dermatology are conservative and sound. He is well aware that dietary measures are not often helpful in the management of skin troubles. Thomas Bateman, in 1814, defined eczema as a non-contagious vesicular eruption, but Dr. Leider stretches the term to include vesicular virus diseases and fungus infections and yet, strangely, excludes infantile eczema (atopic dermatitis). Treatment is well covered and there is an excellent formulary of 101 preparations for topical application. Perhaps a word of warning should have been inserted about topical fluorohydrocortisone, since it may be absorbed and cause oedema. Also it may be questioned whether Fowler’s solution should be recommended in the treatment of dermatitis herpetiformis in a child. Dr. Leider is interested and careful in the use of nomenclature, but he slips up in telling us that erythema contusiforme is another name for Bazin’s disease; it is, in fact, another name for erythema nodosum and describes the bruise-like play of colour of the fading lesions. The book is well produced, well illustrated and well balanced, and it can be recommended.


In this short monograph the authors, after a general discussion on the various methods used for the qualitative and quantitative analysis of the amino acids present in urine and a review of publications on physiological and pathological aminoaciduria, report the results they have obtained with the Stein and More’s method (column chromatography on ion exchange resin) on a small number of patients they have studied, six normal children, three premature babies and 14 other children with the following conditions: malnutrition with protein deficiency (four cases); cystinosis (two cases); phenylpyruvic oligophrenia (one case); alkaptonuria (one case); glycogen disease (one case); Marfan’s syndrome (two cases); hyperzotaeic renal dwarfism (one case); somatic infantilism of unknown origin (one case); lead poisoning in infancy (one case).