

REVIEWS

Observations on the Pathology of Hydrocephalus.

By DOROTHY S. RUSSELL, Professor of Pathology in the University of London, and Director of the Bernhard Baron Institute of Pathology, the London Hospital. 1949. M.R.C. Special Report Series No. 265. London: H.M.S.O. Pp. 138. (Price 6s.)

In this admirable monograph, Professor Russell has presented an authoritative account of the many and various causes and effects of hydrocephalus. Although much of this information already existed, it has not hitherto been readily available and in collecting and presenting it in this complete and lucid way, Professor Russell has rendered a signal service to knowledge of the subject. The monograph is the outcome of the work of many years, during which the author has had exceptional opportunity for the detailed study of the morbid anatomy of a large number of cases of hydrocephalus. From these cases a selection has been made to provide a comprehensive survey of the pathology of the condition. Clinical particulars are briefly presented. Neoplasms were the commonest cause of hydrocephalus in this series, but meningeal inflammation, whether of bacterial origin or due to haemorrhage or other causes, is recognized as probably responsible for most cases that begin in infancy. In an interesting chapter dealing with maldevelopments, the Arnold-Chiari malformation associated with spina bifida is fully discussed, and the widely held theory of traction is discarded.

The ninety figures nearly all illustrate actual cases. The great majority are photographs, and have been so well chosen and reproduced that they show the conditions illustrated with almost diagrammatic clearness, and are a most valuable feature.

Diagnostic Tests for Infants and Children.

By H. BEHRENDT, M.D. 1949. New York and London. Interscience Publishers. Pp. 529. (Price 45s.)

This handbook, which deals with the 'principles, clinical and laboratory procedures, and interpretation' of diagnostic tests used in paediatric practice, is the most inclusive of its kind, and is exceptionally well documented. There are special sections on electro-encephalography and intelligence-testing, though the latter, contributed by a different author, is perhaps hardly up to the standard of the rest of the volume. The general method adopted by Dr. Behrendt throughout is to outline the principles of each diagnostic test described, and to discuss the paediatric applications with details of procedure. This book should prove invaluable as a work of reference, and in view of the vast number of additions which have been made to the diagnostic armamentarium of recent years, the author is to be congratulated on successfully covering such a wide field.

Blood Transfusion. Edited by GEOFFREY KEYNES, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S., Emeritus Surgeon, St. Bartholomew's Hospital. 1949. Bristol: John Wright and Sons. Pp. 586. (Price 52s. 6d.)

There can be few concerned with any branch of medicine who will not find something to interest them in this comprehensive symposium. The editor has provided an historical survey of the subject, which is a scholarly monograph containing a wealth of picturesque detail, ranging from the aged Pope Innocent VIII drinking the blood of young boys who were sacrificed for the purpose, to the various attempts to use animal donors, and finally to the introduction of citrated blood leading to the modern transfusion era. The indications for transfusion and its complications are dealt with by R. Bodley Scott, who provides nearly a thousand references; the blood groups, the blood donor, and the organization of a hospital transfusion department, by H. F. Brewer, who strays into such pleasant byways as the determination of paternity and the identification of blood stains; and the London Blood Transfusion Service and the psychology of blood donors by F. W. Mills. The technique of blood transfusion is described by Anthony Till, and blood transfusion in infancy by R. W. B. Ellis. Sir Lionel Whitby contributes a chapter on the storage and preservation of blood and blood derivatives, and R. I. N. Greaves one on blood derivatives and blood substitutes. It is not surprising that a book of this magnitude has taken some considerable time to prepare, and that in spite of numerous additions to the proof, some recent work on various aspects of the subject has appeared since the final revision at the end of 1948. Nevertheless, this book assembles a great deal of information which is not readily available elsewhere, and should prove of real value to all those interested in blood transfusion.

A Miniature Textbook of Feeble-mindedness. By LEO KANNER, M.D., Director, Children's Psychiatric Service, the Johns Hopkins Hospital. 1949. Child Care Monographs No. 1, Child Care Publications. New York. Pp. 33. (Price \$1.25.)

The author, with wit and erudition, examines our concepts of mental deficiency. He concludes that we have as yet no satisfactory classification, and suggests for practical and humanitarian reasons a simple grouping into absolute, relative, and apparent feebleness. His arguments and illustrations are convincing. Six shillings seems a steep price for a paper-covered book of 33 pages (and no index) but it is worth every penny.

Correction : Professor Yoffey writes:—'I note with horror that on page 123 of the June issue I have allowed a very serious error to appear in my paper, since the word "centripetal" should be "centrifugal."'