
This book of just over 300 pages (the last four of the copy reviewed were entirely blank, but probably meant to be so) has been written 'not only for the electroencephalographer but also for the neurologist, the paediatrician, and the general practitioner'. It is somewhat difficult, looking through the index to find the first three chapters, as the pages are not numbered. Anybody who is anxious to read about the 'Practical Value of the EEG' in chapter 1 is referred to a dozen other publications, and remains puzzled. The chapter on technique (less than a page) refers also to a dozen published papers between 1950 and 1961, including a previous volume of the author's.

In the chapter on infantile epilepsy some useful criteria are listed in relation to the occurrence of 'occasional convulsions' in contrast with what the author calls epilepsy ('a chronic cerebral disease'). It is difficult, however, to understand the statement that 'simple febrile seizures... must not be considered true epileptic convulsions'. It is puzzling why the author should consider prematurity, post-maturity and alcholism of the parents... important as aetiological factors of epilepsy.

Apart from the above and a few other statements that are somewhat difficult to believe in 1963, the book is nicely presented, of a very reasonable size, and about five-sixths of it consists of illustrations of selected electroencephalograms in the form of an atlas (223 pages). The book is completed by some 20 pages of bibliography with some quotations from 1960, 1961 and 1962.

The quality of the electroencephalograms is difficult to evaluate because the technique employed is not one commonly used in this country.

The illustrations are very good and they clearly show the mode of elicitation of the reflexes. It is based mainly on the work of the Bobaths, and 14 of the 30 references refer to their papers. The fact that all the photographs show the same boy and are therefore posed does not detract from their informative value.


Having studied this 3rd edition of a deservedly popular book one feels well prepared for further and more expert studies in medical genetics. The author makes it clear that this is not a textbook of medical genetics containing comprehensive details of human inherited abnormalities; rather is it a 'physiology' devoted to the principles underlying human inheritance. It is easily read, the diagrams are clear and standardized, the photographs few but well chosen. The author is considerate enough to indicate when certain sections may be omitted without loss of the main thread of thought, and also keeps mathematical concepts to a minimum. A new chapter clearly describes the most important chromosomal abnormalities and the manner in which they arise. The principles of genetic counselling are dealt with in a straightforward and helpful way. The new section on biochemical genetics is brief but informative, but contains one error in line 24 of page 181, where tyrosine is given instead of tyrosinase.

A separate section recommends additional reading on general and specific lines. The references are grouped at the end under the headings of the consecutive sections in which they occur, and an index of definitions of terminology is also given.

Anyone embarking on a career in paediatrics or medicine would be well advised to study this book and to keep it for periodic perusal.

The printing and binding are of a high standard and the price is reasonable.


It is only comparatively recently that genetically determined muscular dystrophy has been separated from the heterogeneous collection of diseases known as myopathies. The production of a strain of mice at Bar Harbor, Maine, that have an inherited muscular dystrophy similar in some ways to the human disease, has provided an experimental tool with which to study the disease in greater detail than is possible from human biopsy material. In this book are collected contributions from clinicians, pathologists, biochemists, histochemists, geneticists, physiologists and electron microscopists, who have studied human and mouse muscular dystrophy and also another inherited muscular disease that occurs in chickens. J. H. Walton has written a very clear account of the clinical types and C. M. Pearson discusses the


This book is written by the director of occupational therapy in the Newington Hospital for crippled children. It is a monograph in the American lectures in orthopaedic surgery. It is essentially a series of photographs of a variety of primitive reflexes, with their mode of elicitation. The reflexes include the flexor withdrawal, extensor thrust, crossed extension, asymmetrical and symmetrical tonic neck reflexes, labyrinthine reflexes, positive and negative supporting reactions, and the Moro and Landau reflexes. Each reflex is described under the headings Test Position, Test Stimulus, Negative Reaction, and Positive Reaction. In each case the author states the age period at which the reflex is normally found, and then states that after this age persistence of the reflex may indicate delay in maturation. There is no attempt apart from this to discuss the significance of the findings. There is no note of the symmetry of such reflexes as the Moro, and of the significance of asymmetry. The opening of the hand and other features of the quality of the Moro reflex are not mentioned.
pathology of the human disease. There is also some useful electrophysiological information about various muscle disorders other than muscular dystrophy from Buchthal and Rosenfalk. The most important recent advances in our knowledge of the disease have come from biochemists, notably Schapira and Dreyfus who contribute to this volume. Serum enzyme levels have been shown to be high in patients and their relatives, and this provides the most specific diagnostic criterion. The muscle itself shows many abnormal chemical findings both in man and in the mouse, and a great deal of comparative data have been produced. It is perhaps disappointing amid this wealth of material that all the findings could simply be the result of the disease! the primary cause eludes us completely.

However, this volume contains most of the information that was available about the disease at the time when it went to press, and there is a valuable collection of references.


The excitement stimulated by the title is sustained throughout the text. As the authors point out knowledge of enzyme functions, molecular disturbances and genetic influences has increased enormously since the appearance of the first edition eight years ago. This second edition has been brought up to date in the literal sense of the word, and in admirably lucid, logical terms deals with the place and practical value of appropriately selected biochemical investigations in paediatric practice. Perspective is preserved throughout. Arbitrary opinions are supported by reasoned argument. Caution is adopted in the interpretation of results of a number of tests, and where conflicting views still prevail the authors express their own considered opinion based on wide and rich experience.

The text is divided into three major sections. Of these the first deals in detail with methods of investigation; the second explains the value of technical procedures in study of the functions of organs, tissues and body fluids; and the third is concerned with the organized, logical application of biochemical studies in the investigation of clinical syndromes. Inevitably paediatric interests dealt with are varied and vast. Subjects dealt with include mineral and fluid balance; calcium and phosphorus metabolism; carbohydrate metabolism; renal, hepatic and alimentary function; and hormonal secretions. Subsections are devoted to blood groups, coagulation and haemolysis; and to respiratory exchange considered in relation to pulmonary and cardiac function.

In general presentation of each subject in all three sections consists of, in succession—an outline of the physiological principles involved, a precise description of techniques, and an explanation of results to be expected in healthy and unhealthy subjects. In an altogether outstanding volume your reviewer was especially impressed by the carefully developed, unprejudiced arguments incorporated in discussions of individual clinical conditions. The discussions touch on the evolution of biochemical studies and clinical opinions, integrate the differing and changing views of biochemical pathologists and children's physicians, and recognize the persistence of many biochemical and clinical uncertainties.

The plan and format facilitate easy reading of a massive amount of valuable research and experience. Overlapping sections are minimized by judicious use of cross-references. Each subsection has an admirably comprehensive and up-to-date list of references to the literature of many countries, including that of the United Kingdom. Tables and illustrations make positive contributions to the value of the text, and there is an excellent index.

The book possesses great value as a work of reference for both clinicians and laboratory workers. It can be relied upon to disturb the conscience of the reactionary, and to stimulate a spirit of excited inquiry in the most slothful. For the impetuous and overzealous there is good advice in the introduction to this edition:

'I faut toujours penser que la répétition des prêleve- ments est à la fois douloureuse et spoliative. Médecins et biologistes doivent donc rester maîtres de leur curiosité et se limiter à ce qui est utile'.


In 1922 Dr. Edith Lincoln began a planned clinical and pathological study of tuberculous children drawn from the unrivalled material of the Bellevue Hospital, New York City. By 1949, 964 children with recent primary tuberculosis infection had been enrolled and have now been followed up almost into adult life. None of these children had received antibiotic treatment and they form the basis for a study of the natural history, cause, and prognosis of primary tuberculosis. This unique group of cases, together with several others with tuberculosis of bones, kidneys, skin and elsewhere, in all some 2,500 cases, is the material used by Dr. Lincoln and Dr. Sewell for writing this most unique, comprehensive and attractive book about which it is difficult to find sufficient expressions of praise. Professor Arvid Wallgren, in his foreword, calls it 'a remarkable, exhaustive, up-to-date and beautiful book which contains everything worth knowing about childhood tuberculosis'. What perhaps makes this book so unique and valuable is that the material which the authors have so patiently collected and so exhaustively studied is used throughout the text to substantiate their very precise statements, but never to batter or overwhelm the reader with facts and figures and tables. It is written in a style that is at the same time completely authoritative and yet both lucid and simple.

The main bulk of the book is concerned with recent childhood infection, its pathology, diagnosis, cause and treatment, as well as its long-term results in relation to adult infection, both with and without antibiotic treatment. There are also chapters on chronic pulmonary...