that stage where their main use is in advancing knowledge in endocrinology rather than in helping the individual patient. Such an authoritative book as this will, therefore, be of great assistance to the clinician, be he an endocrinologist or not, and laboratory workers in the field will also find much of interest.

The methods at present available are described in general terms. References to details of methods will help the laboratory worker, and the clinician will find the accounts unencumbered with too much detail.

This is a superb book and is highly recommended. It is clearly written, authoritative, and accurate. The long lists of relevant references are very helpful.


This small book of 128 pages tries to revive interest in the interaction between altered behaviour and phenomena related to seizures. Ictal states, ictal, and subictal phenomena are considered as a complex patho-physiological occurrence of relatively transitory nature. The author has certainly tried to do his best, but admits that ictal and subictal states cannot be unequivocally defined.

In addition to an introduction, this little book covers, in Chapter 2, the relation between ictal states and the temporal lobe-rhinencephalon-thalamus-complex. In Chapter 3 the 'epileptic equivalents' are described and discussed, while Chapter 4 is devoted to the role of the EEG in ictal and subictal neurosis. The following chapters deal with precipitants and activators of ictal and subictal states, psychology of such states, their specific secondary symptoms (including headaches, anxiety and depression, visual phenomena, auditory phenomena, sexual disturbances, 'vegetative syndrome', hypochondriasis, automatism, etc.). The eighth chapter on 'Speculative Aspects of Epilepsy' stresses how 'every instance of excessively high temperatures could result in a potential victim of minute brain damage.'

Probable observations and science fiction are put together in such a way that the reader does not know any more on which side he might be. For example, at page 102 'in grandmal, all planes are taking off simultaneously without pilots and passengers during a fog; the same event takes place in petit mal and psychomotor epilepsy but is limited to only a few planes. Because of fog, the control tower cannot see or direct what is going on.'

The chapter on 'Therapy of Ictal and Subictal Neurosis' comes down in favour of diphenylhydantoin and against phenobarbital. In the brief summary of half a page the conclusion is that 'the prevalence of microscopic scars following minimal encephalitis as a result of childhood diseases or trauma is considerably greater than generally assumed. The resultant functional changes become a part of the individual's character make-up or aggravate existing behavior problems.' Again unfortunately the author does not give factual information as to how he has reached this particular conclusion.

The bibliography of 12 pages (226 references) is included in this book, but the gaps are considerable.

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British Association of Paediatric Surgeons

The 13th International Congress of the British Association of Paediatric Surgeons was held in the Institute of Child Health, Guilford Street, London W.C.1, under the Presidency of Mr. W. M. Dennison, from Tuesday, July 5, to Friday, July 8, 1966. Some 160 surgeons from over 30 different countries attended the meeting. The Simpson Smith Memorial Lecture was given by Professor Sir Herbert Seddon, on 'The Crippled Child in the Tropics', and an Institute Lecture was given by Dr. Paul Bacsich, on 'Embryology 1984—The Shape of Things to Come'. During the scientific part of the meeting 24 communications on paediatric surgical subjects were delivered and on Thursday, July 7, in the afternoon, a symposium on Myelomeningocele and Hydrocephalus was given at Queen Mary's Hospital for Children, Carshalton, under the chairmanship of Mr. H. B. Eckstein and Mr. D. M. Forrest. The meeting was concluded on Friday, July 8, with the annual dinner at the Livery Hall, Guildhall, at which Mr. P. P. Rickham was installed as President for the years 1967/68.

The 1967 meeting of the Association will take place in Bremen, Germany, from July 18-21, 1967, and the 1968 meeting in Liverpool from July 17-20, 1968. All inquiries about future meetings should be directed to the newly-elected Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. James Lister, F.R.C.S., Children's Hospital, Western Bank, Sheffield 10.