

of hypothalamic dysfunction to those already recorded as accompanying hydrocephalus. Among a number of contributions from Shurtleff and Foltz the observations establishing the normal thickness of the cerebral mantle in children are perhaps the most useful.

The Society for Research into Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida continues, by its meetings and publications, to foster interest and progress in this interdisciplinary field, and these are more likely to be maintained by attention to original contributions and research work than the repetition of variations upon the familiar clinical research themes in this subject.

**Developing and Diseased Muscle. A Histochemical Study.** By Victor Dubowitz. (Pp. ix + 107; illustrated + tables. 30s.; \$4.) London: Spastics International Medical Publications in Association with William Heinemann Medical Books. 1968.

This interesting and useful monograph represents a review of the histochemical studies of muscle differentiation and maturation, as presented, presumably, in the author's Ph.D. thesis. Essentially, he has examined the histochemical differences between the two main

fibre types which comprise skeletal muscle. There are fundamental differences in their mode of energy utilization, and these are reflected in the enzymatic composition which can be demonstrated histochemically. Maturational differences and species variation are reviewed, and there is a critique of the relevance of this and allied studies to research into neuromyopathic syndromes and muscular dystrophy. Evidence for neural influences on enzymatic differentiation of muscle fibres is of particular interest, especially since the relatively selective distribution of weakness and wasting in the early stages of the various muscular dystrophies is compatible with the view that neural interrelations are important even in these primary myopathies.

Since this monograph holds an interest for many whose knowledge of biochemistry is, to say the least, sketchy, it is a pity that the author did not provide a more explicit account of contemporary theories of oxidative phosphorylation and the Embden-Meyerhof shunt, but doubtless the ignorant will be stimulated to go back to their books. Any raggedness resulting from the dissertational metamorphosis is outweighed by the advantages of having this compilation of data in the form of a monograph.

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The prize shall consist of a money award of 100 guineas to be given for an essay on a paediatric surgical subject chosen by the candidate.

The prize shall be open to men and women from the British Commonwealth or the Republic of Ireland who are engaged in the practice of surgery and must be written in English.

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