BOOK REVIEWS


After Dr. C. G. Dyke's untimely death, the co-author, Dr. L. M. Davidoff, has undertaken the revision of the well known "Normal Encephalogram." This monograph deals not only with the encephalographic anatomy, in the authors' own words, the anatomy of the living brain, and its coverings viewed by means of the contrasting shadows of tissues and gas in the stereoscopic roentgenograms, but in a most clear and scholarly fashion, with both the operative and roentgenologic technique of encephalography and a great number of other questions such as for instance the various reactions observed following lumbar air injection, and the problem of therapeutic effects. Especially valuable are chapters III, IV and V, which contain a classic description of the cerebral convolutions and sulci, the subarachnoid cisterns and their contents as well as of some intracranial structures and related fluid spaces. Like its companion volume, the Abnormal Pneumoencephalogram, the monograph has no equal in the international literature and, quite apart from its particular value for the diagnosis of organic disease of the brain, proves the increasing importance of a thorough anatomical training in general. The reviewer recommends it, therefore, not only to roentgenologists, neurologists and neurosurgeons but would like to see it also, as collateral reading, in the hands of every medical student.

B. S.


The authors of this long awaited monograph aimed at presenting the pneumoencephalographic abnormalities in brain disease and at correlating them with the experiences of other writers who, although on a smaller scale, have made similar investigations. In this task they have admirably succeeded. In the present volume which exhausts the subject with a comprehensiveness thus far unknown, the reader will find not only a description of the abnormal findings in intracranial tumors, which make up the bulk of the volume, but also of many other lesions, including chronic subdural hematomas, brain abscesses, vascular anomalies, aneurysms, cerebral thrombosis, intracranial hemorrhage, various malformations, aqueduct stenosis, pneumocephalus, degenerative and posttraumatic disease, serous meningitis, optic chiasm arachnoiditis, toxoplasmosis and torulosis. The very scope of the work makes it impossible to discuss and to do full justice to the individual items. Descriptions of plain roentgenograms and many illustrative clinical case histories supplement those of the abnormal pneumoencephalogram and an extensive bibliography comprising nearly 500 full title references is appended. In using this book one will find valuable data concerning not only the roentgenologic manifestations of brain disease but information pertaining to almost any field of neurosurgery. Hence the volume is both a well organized text and a most useful sourcebook.

B. S.