BOOK REVIEWS

*Modern Scientific Aspects of Neurology*. Edited by J. N. Cumings. 360 pp. and 95 figures.
To keep abreast of the rapidly progressing neurological sciences the practicing neurologist needs some frequent reviews of recent advances. This monograph will well fit such a purpose. More than one half of it is devoted to the neurochemistry of the lipidoses and demyelinating diseases (Einarson, Diezel, Seitelberger, Klenk and Debuch, Thompson, Cumings). Other chapters are on “Nerve endings in striated muscles” (Coers), “Electron microscopy of myelin and of nerve cells and tissue” (Sjostrand), “Epilepsy and convulsive states” (D. Richter). The book is well illustrated, and the list of references is fairly complete.

ARTHUR WEIL

This monograph, although primarily important to the neurosurgeon, should also give valuable information to the clinician. By comparing x-ray pictures with the actual vertebral preparations beginning with fetal life and continuing through age into senility the author is enabled to do away with many unfounded theories concerning the formation of “pseudo-joints”. He also studied the development and progressive changes with age of the intervertebral disk. Regressive changes are not specific for old age, but are beginning already early in life. The cervical spinal column is characterized by the appearance of lateral fissures in the disks which have been described as “pseudo articulations”. Their appearance coincides with the changes in the processus uncinati. They are not signs of degenerative changes but a physiological adaptation of the vertebrae to an increased mobility.

ARTHUR WEIL

This encyclopedia, condensed in one volume with the help of extremely fine print, was prepared by 4041 contributors and reviewers and gives information on approximately 9000 indexed subject matters. Its scope may be judged by glancing over the more than 400 tables which contain information concerning the many different branches of the biological sciences. As an example may be mentioned the chapter on drugs affecting the central nervous system which gives the chemistry and toxicology of 74 drugs and enumerates the clinical application of 69. The handbook is intended for students, teachers and experts who seek information outside their own area of specialization. It should be part of the library of every biological laboratory.

ARTHUR WEIL

Professors House and Pansky’s book is intended for medical students. Restrictions on instructional time are mentioned by the authors as having played a role in the design of their text which attempts to solve this problem by systematization rather than elimination. The book is oriented toward the didactic lecture rather than regional, laboratory approach.

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A vigorous effort is made at the end of chapters to reduce the material of the text to outlines and diagrams which will appeal to instructors who are pressed for time or dislike a permissive attitude toward the subject. An effort has been made to include clinical considerations, including instructions for examination of the patient and interpretation of findings.

Fred A. Mettler

Announcements

The Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the American Association of Neuropathologists will be held at the Hotel Shelburne on June 11 and 12, 1961, in Atlantic City, N. J.

The Diagnostic Slide Session sponsored by the American Association of Neuropathologists will be held Saturday June 10th at 8:00 p.m. at the Shelburne Hotel, Atlantic City.

Participation is limited to those registered for the session. Members and guests are invited to attend as auditors. Protocols will be available.