

production of the book makes it easy to read, and there is a splendid introductory section that deals with the evolution of clinical neurology from its very first written text dating from BC 3000, in which the term "brain" was coined by ancient Egyptian physicians, to the latest clinical series and syndromes of disease. Anyone reading this book would wish it had been possible to hear in person at least some of these lectures illustrated by the dynamic slides from which this atlas of carefully annotated illustrations has been harvested. The publisher and the author can be congratulated on a work that will make this generation see a fresh interest in the problem of many acute and chronic illnesses, which are here so vividly portrayed.

Dr Spillane reminds us that "the human visual cortex is larger than the auditory and the processes of learning and memory are predominantly visual". To sit and turn the pages of this book is to bring before one's eyes unforgettable portraits of every type of nervous disease, functional and organic, acquired and inherited, always with a discreet commentary that itself is worthy of very high praise.

Your reviewer believes that no more important and attractive book on neurology has yet been published. Dr Spillane leads us gently over the regional aspects of neurology with sections on the head and neck, the limbs, and the muscles. There is a section on disorders characterized by involuntary movements. He deals fully with specific disease groups including neurosyphilis and endocrine disorders. There is a brilliant section on hysteria, and perhaps most impressive of all is a salutary section on iatrogenic neurological disorders, which here, as in all fields of contemporary medicine, occupies an increasingly formidable position.

The author, a student of Henry Thoreau, will recall this phrase from Thoreau's journal of 1852: "Otherwise we may be cured into greater disease". Everyone in practice today would be the better for reading and dwelling upon the vivid illustrations, diagrams, and their accompanying explanatory texts showing the neurological side effects of drug therapy, of modern neurosurgical techniques, and of therapy by deep x-rays. This is a book to read and, if possible, to buy. It will be treasured throughout the years of practice, and constantly consulted.

The surgery of the common congenital cardiac malformations. First edition.

CHRISTIAAN N. BARNARD, M.D., M.MED., M.S., PH.D., F.A.C.S., F.A.C.C. and
VELVA SCHRIRE, M.S.C., PH.D., M.D., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.C.P., F.A.C.C. London.
Staples Press. 1968. Pp. 179. Price £2 10s. 0d.

The subjects described in this book are patent ductus arteriosus, coarctation of the aorta, atrial septal defect, ventricular septal defect, Fallot's tetralogy, and pulmonary stenosis with intact ventricular septum. It is essentially a surgical book; nearly half the text and many of the illustrations are of purely surgical interest. Nevertheless, in the management of these cases, the surgeon carries the final responsibility and quite reasonably needs convincing evidence that his efforts will be worth while. For this reason, the assessment of these cases is more clearly and critically stated than in most books on cardiology, and this increases its value to the physician or general practitioner who would find it a valuable companion volume to other books on cardiology. The fact that it is surgical also means that the emphasis on embryology, anatomy and haemodynamics is different from that of medical books. Lucidly written by eminent authors this is a book which may be read with profit by anyone interested in cardiology.
