

plants. The type of hallucination produced differed with each, and appears to have retained its own characteristics. Is this indeed so? Interesting, but so is the whole book and well worth reading for that alone.

The diagnosis and treatment of diseases affecting the nervous system. FREDERICK LEES, M.B., M.R.C.P., D.C.H., M.P.S. London. Staples Press. 1970. Pp. xxix+982. Price £8.

This large textbook produced in two volumes is a newcomer in the field of neurology and the author, in the presentation of his subject, departs from the more usual format of such books. Volume I is divided into two parts, the first being concerned with discussion of the main causes of common neurological symptoms arranged in regional or typographical manner. Towards the end of Part I short surveys of common clinical relationships between conditions affecting the nervous system and disorders in other systems are described. Thus under each symptom heading of which there are approximately 130, the possible differential diagnoses are listed. Part II deals with physical signs and describes methods of examination. It concludes with several pages devoted to outpatient and inpatient investigations. These are described in a brief and practical fashion and finally two pages are devoted to a short definition of the more sophisticated neurosurgical tests.

Volume II (or part III) of the work presents neurology in the more usual form with concise descriptions of diseases and affections of the central nervous system and muscles. This part is comprehensive and all possible neurological disorders including the rare seem to have been mentioned.

This neurology textbook has been written by a practising neurologist with the needs of the general practitioner in mind. The lay-out of the book is designed to follow the presentation of the disease by the patient to the clinician. Thus symptomatology is analysed first, followed by the signs; and those signs which are described at the beginning of Part II are therefore logically those concerned with departures from the normal appearance, the gait, and mental behaviour, as the patient first presents in the surgery.

Volume I being concerned with the differential diagnosis of symptoms and signs is difficult to read and is really meant as a reference book, the guiding signpost to the reading in Volume II of the diseases from which that particular patient may be suffering. Volume II is therefore the more readable book of the two and could be purchased alone.

If one had to make a criticism of this otherwise excellent textbook it would be that it is too detailed and comprehensive for the audience mentioned in

the foreword for whom he has written this book. This commendable fault has been due to the enthusiastic energy and the thoroughness with which the author has approached his task. Thus he has mentioned in his textbook many rare conditions which his audience will probably never see in the whole of their professional working lives.

The book is enhanced by a good contents list and a good index, and near the end by a most helpful list of selected references, and a fine collection of clinical and pathological photographs.

Should the young doctor be contemplating purchasing a textbook of neurology for his library shelf this new textbook of neurology is worthy of consideration alongside its competitors.

The roots of individuality. Normal patterns of development in infancy. SIBYLLE ESCALONA. London. Tavistock Publications. 1969. Pp. ix+546. Price £5.

In this book Dr Escalona describes the results of 20 years of research and observation in the field of human development. Up to now little was known of the finer aspects of development in relation to environment other than the relatively crude finding that gross deprivation usually had an adverse effect. Dr Escalona postulates a relationship between what she terms 'stable patterns of experience' and developmental status.

Intensive observation of 128 normal infants between the ages of 4-32 weeks form the clinical material on which she bases her theories, and 32 of these case histories are discussed in detail in the final 200 pages. This is probably the section of most interest to the general practitioner with its extensive descriptions of interaction between mother and child, which could well act as a stimulus to our own observations of mother-baby contacts.

The work as a whole, however, is heavy going for the reader without a specialized interest in psychiatry or infant development despite the obvious importance of the subject. The standard of production is good and there is an extensive list of references.

Venereal diseases. Second edition. AMBROSE KING, T.D., M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S. and CLAUDE NICOL, T.D., M.D., F.R.C.P. London. Bailliere, Tindall and Cassell. 1969. Pp. xiv+319. Price £3 15s. Od. (£3.75p).

Despite modern drugs venereal diseases manage to survive and although most general practitioners do not often see cases the possibility must never be forgotten. This standard textbook contains the necessary information in most readable form. The text is up to date and the index is adequate

for reference purposes. The presentation and colour prints are excellent though some of the black and white pictures are not so clear.

The book has been written for all those interested in the subject and is ideal for the general practitioner to read and then to keep for reference.

New editions

Brain's diseases of the nervous system. Seventh edition. The late LORD BRAIN, D.M., F.R.C.P., F.R.S., and JOHN N. WALTON, T.D., M.D., F.R.C.P. London. Oxford University Press. 1969. Pp. xv + 1062. Price £4. 15s. (£4.75)

This fine textbook appears once again larger in size, with a few deletions but with many additions reflecting recent advances in neurological knowledge. Lord Brain's untimely death in 1966 unfortunately interrupted the revision of this edition when only about one third had been completed, but Professor Walton has succeeded admirably in completing the task and has wisely adhered to the same traditional structure and style as his illustrious predecessor. This plan is used in the new introductory section to the first chapter on 'general principles' which was written and added by Professor Walton in accordance with Lord Brain's directions. This section makes a good beginning to the book.

Professor Walton has completely rewritten the chapter on disorders of muscle and has revised extensively all those sections which had not been touched upon by Lord Brain before his death. The result is that the book has maintained its excellent lay-out with chapters, sections and subsections clearly labelled. The style is easy to read and material easy to find. The book has been brought up to date with the addition of recent references added to the lists at the end of each of the main sections. The comprehensiveness of the book is well illustrated by the inclusion not only of those neurological syndromes resulting from what we might call primary disease of the nervous system, but also of the neurological manifestations that arise secondary to other conditions. Thus the nervous diseases that arise in association with intoxications and metabolic disorders (including alcohol and drug addiction), deficiency diseases and neoplasms originating outside the nervous system are all fully described. The final chapter appositely finishes with a discussion of the psychological aspects of neurology looking at the relationships between neurological and psychiatric disorder where there can be so much overlap—and then finally there is a very good index.

I believe that this volume, which is a classic in its own field, should be on every physician's bookshelf whether he be a general practitioner, a hospital specialist or a postgraduate student studying for a higher qualification.

Obstetrics. Second edition. J. M. HOLMES, M.D., B.S., F.R.C.O.G. London. Bailliere, Tindall & Cassell Ltd. 1969. Pp. viii + 301. Price 28s. 0d. (£1.40p).

This book has now gone into its second edition, the first having been published five years ago. The author's aim remains the same "to present a concise survey of modern obstetrics which meets the entire requirements for the M.B., B.S., examinations". As with all textbooks, whatever field of medicine is concerned, a new edition means the inclusion of new and advanced work, so despite the omission of outdated material the new edition has increased in size. To overcome this, the chapter on normal anatomy of the mother has been left out altogether, an almost identical chapter occurs in the companion volume on gynaecology. The chapter on the anatomy and physiology of the foetus is retained. Several new chapters appear in this edition, on placental function, placental insufficiency, foetal distress and asphyxia neonatorum, also on drug dependence in pregnancy. New techniques in assessing the state of the foetus are described such as ultrasonic monitoring of the foetal heart and scalp blood sampling. In addition to the inclusion of new material, the entire contents of the book have been reviewed and brought up to date. The absence of any mention of cervical incompetence and its management is to be regretted since it is not an uncommon condition, and some mention of the present position of termination of pregnancy ought to have been included since this is very much a part of modern day obstetrics and gynaecology—perhaps this is included in the companion volume on gynaecology. Many such topics must fall between two such volumes and argue strongly in favour of combined textbooks at this level of study, in the long run such a book would also be financially cheaper.

This is a well written book which covers the field, it will be of great value to the medical student and of use to the general practitioner obstetrician, but he would probably require something more detailed for reference purposes.

Books received

Rehabilitation services for the disabled. A report to the Nuffield Foundation. G. YATES, M.B., B.Chir., D.I.H., M.R.C.G.P. London. The Nuffield Foundation. Pp. 46.

Mechanisms of toxicity. British Medical Bulletin. Volume 25, Number 3, September 1969. London. The British Council. Pp. 219-312. Price £2.