

cloxacillin are not mentioned in the treatment of penicillin-resistant staphylococcal infections, and daranide is misspelt. The chapter on tuberculosis is extremely well done.

As with others in this series this is a valuable reference book when considering differential diagnosis, or refreshing the memory quickly.

Neurological Manifestations of General Diseases. JOHN A. AITA, M.D., PH.D. Illinois, U.S.A. Charles C. Thomas. 1964. Pp. xiii + 921. Price \$24.50.

In his preface to this remarkable work, Dr Aita explains his objectives. "A wealth of neurological phenomena appear in diseases not traditionally considered neurologic diseases. Neurologic manifestations of many diseases have long been lost in the borderlands between specialities, the concern of only the occasional worker who has sought and studied them."

The author rightly believes that every doctor should have access to a very wide and fully documented field of information concerning these nervous aspects of many illnesses usually first cared for by general surgeons and physicians in their routine practice. It is plain that Dr Aita has faced successfully a formidable task in producing this book, which imparts information to its reader with the relentless accuracy of a computer, and which carries at the end of each section an unusual number of comprehensive references.

Here is a most valuable book for the hospital library. It will be well thumbed on those too familiar occasions when the diagnosis is still in doubt, and signs of nervous disease add to our perplexity. Admiration for the author is increased by the humility, as well as the determination, with which this book faces the many present gaps in our clinical knowledge; and we are grateful for his insight as well as for his help and encouragement in our often difficult performance as, "the neurologist-of-necessity".

Clinical Neurology. LORD BRAIN, D.M., F.R.C.P. Second edition. London, New York, Toronto. Oxford University Press. 1964. Pp. i + 400. Price 38s.

To some general practitioners, even the title of this comprehensive work by its most distinguished author is a little formidable, but closer examination will quickly serve to reassure. The price of this beautifully produced book is moderate, and its illustrations and scholarship make reading it a pleasure. Both the author and his publishers are to be congratulated on this second edition of a volume that has already won high praise from our profession, and which has much in common with Lord Brain's larger work *Diseases of the Nervous System*.

The general practitioner realizes how deeply he is involved in the complex neurological problems of his patients, and he is grateful to Lord Brain for setting out clearly the most modern methods for the management and successful treatment of many diseases that are common in daily practice, often running a very protracted course. In each illness a clear explanation is given as to what the clinician should do, and also why he

should do it. References are included that give guidance to further reading. The importance of careful history taking is impressed upon the reader, who is also given a short and practical account of the full range of neurological examinations.

Among a wide field of nervous illness, coma is fully discussed in a chapter that will appeal strongly to all who are in active practice. The photographs of angiograms and of encephalograms will interest every doctor whose patients are submitted to these increasingly common aids to accurate diagnosis. Simple examples of the electroencephalogram in normal and in epileptic patients are explained, as are tracings taken in cases of neoplasm and other pathological abnormalities.

Today the patient expects to discuss with his doctor aspects of these examinations, either in the context of their own illness or in seeking advice on behalf of a near relative. Here is a book that will inform and interest us, and enable us the more easily to give wise guidance in such circumstances.

Syphilis of the nervous system and important neurological aspects of psychiatric illness have excellent short sections. Intracranial haemorrhage, polyneuritis, poliomyelitis and the changes in the cerebrospinal fluid in disease, are all lucidly described. Space-occupying pathologies in skull and spinal column, and the problems of peripheral nerve lesions are all dealt with in full and always relevant detail.

Neurology is fast losing its traditional and morphological aspect, and, as is the case with general medicine, it increasingly joins hands with the younger biological sciences. Progress in the study of the auto-immune diseases is already affecting our concepts in such illnesses as encephalomyelitis and disseminated sclerosis; and it is not too much to hope that a not distant future will see many neurological illnesses removed from the shadow of the diagnostically challenging pathology that is all too frequently incurable.

Here is a fine book that many of us will wish to add to the personal library that should be our just pride as well as an essential part of our professional equipment.

Clinical Psychiatry for the Layman. FRANK J. FISH, M.B., M.R.C.P., D.P.M. Bristol. John Wright & Sons Ltd. Pp. i + 59. Price 8s. 6d.

This little book was written by the senior lecturer in psychological medicine at Edinburgh University, mainly for theological students and mental health officers. Dr Fish says it is "of necessity dogmatic"; one might agree the dogmatism while questioning the necessity. Many will feel that the statements such as the following are at least open to argument. "There is no evidence that psychological treatment will cure psychosomatic disorders." "Once a man has been found guilty of such an offence (paedophilia) he must never be allowed to come in contact with children again." "In general it can be said that the neurotic has insight into his illness."

The most useful part of the book is devoted to definitions of signs, symptoms and mechanisms. But for the intelligent layman (or general practitioner) to get a general comprehension of our present knowledge