

## Book Reviews

Salzman, M.: Neurologic Emergencies. Recognition and Management. XVIII, 248 pages, US \$ ca. 34,—. Raven Press, New York 1980

The title of "Neurological Emergencies" – written by a neurosurgeon – shows how far the medical treatment in neurology goes. Actually most of the entities need a collaboration of the neurologist with the neighbouring specialties such as anaesthesiology, neurosurgery, and clinical medicine. Cerebral circulatory disorders, disturbances of consciousness, cardiorespiratory failure, stroke in its various facets, trauma, seizure and muscular respiratory defects and some particular disorders of the paediatric discipline need a broad training for the neurologist, which is so characteristic of modern neurology.

There may be some disagreement about this concept. Some neurologists still dream of the time where neurology was a diagnostic specialty and they were keen to study the old eponymous syndromes and were eager to add a new one of their own. This book can serve as a program of training for the type of neurologist with his own ICU who is badly needed in the modern hospital.

Grewe, H.-E., K. Kremer: Atlas of Surgical Operations, Vol. I, XII, 540 pages, 1246 illustrations, cloth DM 184,—. Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart 1980

There appears to be a curious trend to waste paper in the same ratio as the unbelievable high prices which scientific books are reaching. This excellent atlas of surgical operations, the quality of which is indubitable, has a text which fills one tenth of a page and uses dimensionless large figures, without however enlarging the amount of information by this means. In the world market German books are said to be very expensive and unnecessarily so. This particular example does nothing to contradict this general impression. The reviewer is aware of the very high quality of this book, which is proven by the fact of many reprintings and some foreign translations.

Bobath, B., K. Bobath: Die motorische Entwicklung bei Zerebralpareesen (translated by E. Staehle). VIII, 88 pages, 67 figures. Georg Thieme-Verlag, Stuttgart 1977

The Bobaths certainly have the merits not only to have studied very thoroughly the pathological motor pattern of children with – mostly perinatal – defects as well as the way to overcome these neurological defects so far as this is possible, by an painstaking physical rehabilitation. However, in reading through the little book the "reflex" patterns form the basic framework both for the natural as well as the pathological movement and the methods of physical training. Certainly since Magnus, de Kleyn and Radermecker we have learned much about the underlying reflex basis of the motor pattern. Yet, the interesting phenomenon of the "Ersatz" motility after destruction of the pyramidal pathway as well as today's knowledge of the correlation of pyramidal and parapyramidal motility is not discussed at all, although its knowledge would certainly facilitate many training patterns and discourage some other useless ones. O. Foerster and his school have lived in vain!

Bobath, B.: Die Hemiplegie Erwachsener. Befundaufnahme, Beurteilung und Behandlung (translated by E. Staehle-Hiersemann). 2nd new revised edition. VIII, 208 pages, 111 figures. Georg Thieme-Verlag, Stuttgart 1980

A short introduction into the physical rehabilitation of the adult hemiplegic by the system developed by the Bobaths. Some remarks about the weakness of this interpretation of the motor system after destruction of the pyramidal pathway, have been made in this journal in the review of their other book on the motor development in cerebral pareses.

Shulman, K., A. Marmarou, J. D. Miller, D. P. Becker, G. M. Hochwald, M. Brock: Intracranial Pressure IV. XVIII, 696 pages, 235 figures, 82

tables. DM 119,—, approx. US\$ 70.30. Springer-Verlag, Berlin–Heidelberg–New York 1980

This volume contains papers read at a symposium in Williamsburg/Virginia. Among the more than 150 papers one should certainly find one which will be of particular interest, and this is facilitated by the arrangement into 12 groups according to the sessions. However, for those who are not yet specialists in this matter there may be a certain lack of review articles on these particular problems. These he will not find here. The book is a report of the transactions of a high level symposium without any discussion or the wish to give broader information on the subject. Scientific problems are on the other hand discussed on the highest level. To this extent one can fully recommend it. Reproductions are by photostatic procedure of a typewritten text.

Thompson, R. A., J. R. Green: *Critical Care of Neurologic and Neurosurgical Emergencies*. X, 252 pages, \$ 28.56 (May 1980). Raven Press, New York 1980

Neurology is developing more and more as a specialized clinical and therapeutic discipline. However, only a few departments already have an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) which is indispensable particularly in neurosurgery. Yet, since the operative part of neurosurgery is so time-consuming, neurology is more and more forced to deal with the non-operative conservative therapy in emergencies. The chapters of this book make it quite clear where neurology can take its part as for instance in SAH and brain trauma; on the other hand ischaemic conditions, status epilepticus and all sorts of encephalopathies, bacterial infections and metabolic disturbances have always been in the hands of the neurologist (or internist?). At last however, neurology must now install its own modern ICU and work in collaboration with the neurosurgeon, the anaesthetist and internist.

The ABC of handling these various conditions is shown in this book which is recommended, although the practical methods of therapy could be shorter, clearer and more precisely underlined and formulated.

Voigt, K., P. Stoeter: *Neuroradiologie der embryonalen Hirnentwicklung*. 182 pages, 326 figures, DM 98,—. Ferdinand Enke Verlag, Stuttgart 1980

This is an interesting book, important for all those who have to analyse awkward neuroradiological cases, particularly where vascular malformations are the cause. There are several figures with microangiographic analysis of pathological lesions (whereas the former are excellent, pathology on the other

hand is pretty poor). The angiograms and the ventriculographic analysis of embryonic development of the ventricular system are interesting. Altogether it is a book where one can find the necessary information in particular cases, and as such it may be recommended.

Schiffter, R.: *Zentral-vegetative Regulationen und Syndrome*. X, 134 pages, 56 figures, 6 tables, DM 34,—; approx. US \$ 20.10. Springer-Verlag, Berlin–Heidelberg–New York 1980

This book contains a series of chapters on central regulation in the autonomous system. They are very unequal in quality, some still based on speculation and first observations and concepts, others based on real clinical or experimental data (amusing and stimulating!) Moreover, the subjects really don't correlate sufficiently with each other and the reader will be disappointed if he expects a general concept on the central regulation of the autonomous nervous system.

Marguth, F., M. Brock, E. Kazner, M. Klinger, P. Schmiedek: *Advances in Neurosurgery, Vol. 7: Neurovascular Surgery. Specialized Neurosurgical Techniques*. XXII, 394 pages, 202 figs. in 249 sep. ills., 85 tab., DM 88,— approx. US \$ 49.30. Springer-Verlag, Berlin–Heidelberg–New York 1979.

*Advances in Neurosurgery* presents an interesting volume where several topics may be particularly emphasized. First the life and the merits of Wilhelm Tönnis in German general and neurosurgery are reported and this forms an introduction to the scientific discussion. Here Sweet gave his Othfrid Foerster lecture on pain problems which are so important nowadays in neurosurgery. The extracranial–intracranial anastomoses are more and more introduced into the daily life of the neurosurgeon and this is broadly discussed. The rest of the volume is filled with inspiring papers on techniques and their significance. Altogether this is certainly an important contribution to the specialty.

Burke, D. C., D. D. Murray: *Rehabilitation und Prävention, Band 7: Die Behandlung Rückenmarkverletzter*. XII, 70 pages, 8 figures, DM 24,—, US \$ 13.20. Springer, Berlin–Heidelberg–New York 1979.

A clear introduction for students and young assistants into the easily understandable and important subject of spinal transverse lesions. Many may comment on the absence of any figures or schematic drawings.

Gobiet, W.: Grundlagen der neurologischen Intensivmedizin. Klinikaschenbücher. XII, 205 pages, 38 figures, 46 tables, DM 29,80; approx. US \$ 17.60. Springer-Verlag, Berlin-Heidelberg-New York 1980.

There is a tendency to see neurological treatment very broadly and actually the ICU of a modern neurological department compels such a broad training both in the essentials of neurosurgery as well as internal medicine. This little pocket book describes very precisely and quite reliably the diagnostic and therapeutic concepts necessary for dealing with patients with acute neurological emergencies. It will give safe information to those who enter a neurological ICU.

Degkwitz, R., H. Siedow: Standorte der Psychiatrie. Band 2: Zum umstrittenen psychiatrischen Krankheitsbegriff. U & S Taschenbücher. VIII/152 pages, DM 18,—. Urban & Schwarzenberg, München-Wien-Baltimore 1981.

Highly interesting collection of articles about the discussion on the philosophy and definition of psychiatric disorders.

Schiefer, W., M. Klinger, M. Brock: Brain Abscess and Meningitis. Subarachnoid Hemorrhage: Timing

Problems. Advances in Neurosurgery 9. 519 pages, 219 figures, 134 tables. Springer-Verlag, Berlin-Heidelberg-New York 1981.

This is a report of the proceedings of the Erlangen Congress of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Neurochirurgie, presided over by Wolfgang Schiefer, who shortly thereafter succumbed to a heart attack. An obituary in this journal has already given notice of this sad event. The reviewer and all the German neurosurgeons will certainly remember these fine days under the guidance of Wolfgang Schiefer.

Here, the proceedings about the discussion of the two subjects "brain abscess and meningitis and subarachnoid hemorrhage: timing problems" are gathered in an excellent volume in the customary way. They are typewritten, but with fairly good illustrations, where even histology and computer tomography are surprisingly well reproduced. However, the papers are not discussed, and no critical evaluation is given at the end of the first subject. Fortunately enough there is a discussion at the end of the "timing problems" of SAH which reflects the modern concepts.

There follows a series of interesting papers on various subjects, for instance on antifibrinolytic therapy. The volume gives a good impression of this important meeting.