

REVIEW

ATLAS OF THE HUMAN BRAIN by Donald H. Ford and J.P. Schade
Elsevier Publishing Company. Amsterdam. Price 60s.

This atlas is based on illustrative materials and demonstrations used in the Department of Anatomy of the Downstate Medical Center, University of New York (Brooklyn), and in the Central Institute for Brain Research at Amsterdam. It contains photographic and unretouched materials divisible into 5 groups: I. Superficial Gross Anatomy, II. Vessels, III. Gross dissection, IV. Sectional Anatomy in the Coronal, Horizontal and Sagittal Plane, and V. A. Pal-Weigert Atlas of 30μ thick sections stained for myelin. In addition, it contains a bibliography of important atlases previously published.

The problem of representing a three-dimensional specimen on a two-dimensional print has always been vexatious. Other than the use of special viewers, and some modern techniques of photography, both expensive and as yet unexploited to any extent, the common technique has been line-diagrams or direct photograph. The former has the advantage of ready comprehensibility and clarity, and the latter is exact and true to life. For students of anatomy

and busy practitioners, the former is valuable in being very easily appreciated, but for those who deal with the actual organ, then accuracy cannot be sacrificed.

This book contains an orderly sequence of specimens beautifully prepared, and the photography well-reproduced and would indeed be a most handy atlas for those who prefer accuracy to simplicity. The size and the cost are further attractions and hence it should be popular with students and doctors alike.

However, black and white pictures, whatever the quality, would suffer in clarity especially in crowded regions where the structures are not in sufficient contrast, and this is true of this atlas too. Perhaps, the inclusion of a line-diagram in future editions would enhance its value. Also the section on vessels would be more attractive if it had included pictures of vascular casts which would give a better appreciation of the vascular patterns of both the arterial and venous side of the brain.

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