

REVIEWS

PROGRESS IN BRAIN RESEARCH, Vol. 25 The Cerebellum. Edited by C. A. Fox and R. S. Snider. Elsevier Publishing Company 1967. Pp. 355. Price 130 shillings.

This publication represents the outcome of a Symposium to bring together a group of "Specialists on the Cerebellum who were active in these various fields". The coverage is broad, extending from phylogenetic studies involving extensive light microscopic observations on the cortex as well as afferent and efferent pathways to the precise evaluation of ultra structural details of the primate cerebellum. The anatomical aspects are dealt with far more exhaustively than the physiological or histochemical aspects, but the data presented are such that they cannot fail to excite the interest of neurologists both in the clinical fields and the experimental laboratories. The personal bias in the interest of the reviewer must affect his attention paid to individual sections, and hence it would seem that the anat-

mical studies, and the demonstration of cerebellar influence on cerebral sensory areas are both excitingly and lucidly put forward, and would amply justify the expenditure laid out for such a volume which is expensive even considering the general rise in cost in technical publications.

This is not a book for general reading, and hence to the average run of doctors, it would at best be a reference volume. However, for anyone the information it holds must make it a most desirable companion. The illustrations are clear, the blocks excellently executed, the results of the various workers succinctly put forward. The book will no doubt be a valued possession to those interested in neurological aspects of the cerebellum.

Gwee Ah Leng

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SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS IN CLINICAL MEDICINE by E. Noble Chamberlain and C. M. Ogilvie. John Wright & Sons Ltd. and The English Language Book Society. 8th Edition 1967. Pp. 536. Price 24 shillings.

This is a readable book. The way the subject is dealt with is interesting and easy to follow for the junior student. In the first chapter, a good synopsis of the history of medicine is presented. The points mentioned about the art of history taking from patients are very pertinent. There are also useful chapters on the examination of children, radiology and normal values of common laboratory tests.

To add interest for the fresh student, at the end of each system some diseases are described; however, in some of the chapters too many diseases are described. It would be better to choose only a few diseases to illustrate different aspects of symptoms and signs of that system.

Though in the preface illustrations are said to be the feature of the book, I think the illustrations could have been better chosen. It is not the quality but the choice of illustrations that need criticism on two points. Firstly, there are so many signs that could be illustrated that it

seems a shame to use the space of more than one picture to illustrate the same sign. For example, there are five pictures on rheumatoid arthritis, two of them to show spindle-shaped fingers. Secondly, visual impact on a new clinical student generally leaves deep impressions and signs of diseases should be depicted for the classical sex and age group. In this book, gouty tophi are shown on the arm of a female and a picture of a child is shown with chronic myeloid leukaemia and hepatosplenomegaly. Though the caption beneath states that this is unusual in a child this is much less striking than the photo itself. There is a small misprint on page 451 where abducted is used instead of adducted.

It is inevitable that some points mentioned in this book would not apply to this region in the tropics but on the whole the student will find this an informative book to read when he is being introduced to clinical work.

Lee Guat Siew