

Reviews

CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASE

Cerebrovascular Disease. By James Peter Murphy, M.D. Foreword by Percival Bailey, M.D. (Pp. 408; illustrated. 90s.) Chicago: The Year Book Publishers, Inc. London: Interscience Publishers Ltd. 1954.

This scholarly work includes a survey of the anatomy and pathology of cerebrovascular disorders. These are then related to the clinical syndromes of disturbance of cerebral blood supply. There are chapters which have great contemporary interest, notably that dealing with the vexed problem of spasm of cerebral arteries and that concerned with occlusion of the whole carotid artery itself. Although cerebral angiography has so greatly increased our understanding of the events leading to brain dysfunction through anaemia or haemorrhage, knowledge of the physiology of the cerebral circulation is still pathetically inadequate, so that we are still inclined to consider events as though they were hydrostatic, in a field where hydrodynamic pressure gradients are all-important. The study of morbid anatomical specimens has encouraged the persistence of a static anatomical attitude to the problems, and so far the observation of flows through arteriography has done little to correct that attitude. Throughout Dr. Murphy's book there is apparent an awareness of this difficulty with an emphasis upon the activity of the vascular system as well as upon its structure.

Modification of intracerebral events by change in the vascular bed and in blood flow has been attempted in a number of contemporary procedures used in patients with hemiplegia of vascular origin. These have included, on the surgical side, stellate block, perfusion, and sympathectomy of the carotid vessels, and, on the medical, the immediate use of anticoagulants. Some recovery from vascular accidents being usual without intervention, it has been difficult to assess the results of these radical methods of management, but there is already a tendency to return to the more conservative methods of management which most neurologists have not forsaken. The subject remains, however, a controversial one. While the author has discussed the whole of this question in detail, he has done so in a balanced and thoughtful way which will give comfort to the conservative. At the same time, writing as a neurological surgeon, the author has included the appraisal, not obscured by details of technique, of the radical management of vascular anomalies of the convexity and of the basal vessels.

The work is a balanced one, whether dealing with the management of the lesion itself, of the symptoms to which it gives rise, or of the patient as a whole. Each chapter is followed by an adequate bibliography and is extensively illustrated by photographs of patients, specimens, radiographs, and experimental procedures. The volume contains an opportune review of the present knowledge of a subject whose literature extends to the beginnings of medicine.

DENIS WILLIAMS.

ABOUT WOMEN

Woman: Man's Equal? By Sir Adolphe Abrahams, O.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 176. 10s. 6d.) London: Christopher Johnson. 1954.

This may be regarded as a companion volume to the author's previous work, *Fitness for the Average Man*, the change in the title being made necessary by the fact that "nobody would be so foolhardy as to regard any woman as 'average.'" Whenever I read a book by Sir Adolphe Abrahams I am forcibly brought back to Laotse's "philosophy of the old rogue." Instead of reading a book about women by an eminent Western physician, I seem to be perusing the translation of an old Chinese manuscript

written by, say, Chaung-tzu or, if not by that great master himself, at least by one of his disciples. So strong is this feeling that when I lay down *Woman: Man's Equal?* I see in imagination its distinguished author no longer dressed as usual, but suitably arrayed in Chinese robes.

Far from insulting Sir Adolphe by associating him with the philosophy of the old rogue, I am according him the highest praise, for this philosophy is the product of the highest wisdom. There is a benevolence, a charitableness, and a good-natured humour in the works of Chaung-tzu and also in this book which makes them exceedingly pleasant to read. The author has undoubtedly enjoyed writing *Woman: Man's Equal*, and now his enjoyment seems to come back out of its pages to meet us.

Sir Adolphe deals with a motley of subjects, some of which at first sight would appear to be only remotely related to women, but all combine together to form an excellent dish. Everybody will find something to enjoy in this book and something to condemn in it, for, like the subject with which it deals, it is full of paradoxes, absurdities, and contradictions. I commend it to "misogynists, philogynists, feminists, romanticists, idealists, cynics, knights errant, realists, and rhapsodists"—to everybody indeed except the humourless moron. For the sake of our reputations, therefore, it will be necessary for us all to buy it.

KENNETH WALKER.

CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION

Der Herzkatheterismus bei Angeborenen und Erworbenen Herzfehlern. By Professor Dr. Otto Bayer, Dr. Franz Wolter Loogen, and Dr. Hans Helmut. (Pp. 191+xii; 131 illustrations. D.M. 36.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1954.

In this book on cardiac catheterization in congenital and acquired heart lesions the authors give an account of this method of investigating heart disease based on 800 cases seen at Düsseldorf. Practically all the congenital lesions which exist to an age when investigation can be carried out are included. The first part of the book consists of a general description of materials and technique. There is a full account of Professor Bayer's method of calculating the areas of the pulmonary and mitral openings. The untoward results of the introduction of the catheter into the heart are described. There are well-written clinical and pathological introductions to each section, and these are usually clear and concise.

The schematic representations of the effects of lesions on the circulation need more explanation; they appear to be imitated without acknowledgment from Cournand's book, where they are much better done. The skiagrams are good. The cardiograms do not give the unipolar limb leads, and the other leads are not always labelled. Many of the recordings are marred by alternating current, and their description is often obscured with a curious use of the word "vector." The diagnosis of intra-auricular block needs some explanation. The pressure tracings are for the most part good, but some are poor and blurred and the whole curve is not always included. The phonocardiograms are also often blurred and indistinct. It is rather confusing to read first on one page that an atrial septal defect may cause a presystolic, on another a systolic, and on a third a diastolic murmur.

There is a list of references at the end of the book. This is not free from mistakes, and there is no link between it and the text.

TERENCE EAST.

OBSTETRICAL ESSAYS

Practical Obstetrics. By Bruce T. Mayes, M.V.O., M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.(Edin.), F.R.A.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. Foreword by John A. Stallworthy, M.A., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. (Pp. 500; illustrated. 87s. 6d.) London and Sydney: Angus and Robertson. 1954.

This book first appeared in 1947, when it represented a collection of refresher "bulletins" prepared for medical officers serving in the Forces. It is now considerably modified and enlarged, and many will recognize it as a permanent