

students been so high as at present. The causes for this are partly social, the young swerving away from 'pure' science and towards a profession identified as unquestionably of value to humanity. This position is likely to be stabilized for some time by lack of openings in science, so that Dr Galton's book comes at an apt moment, for it is likely to be most attractive to the bright young recruits to medicine.

The price is rather high, but the work is well illustrated and contains a list of 664 references, many to excellent review articles.

G A D HASLEWOOD

Progress in Neurological Surgery—4

edited by H Krayenbühl,
P E Maspes and W H Sweet
pp xiv + 498 illustrated
sFr/DM 175 \$42 £18.75
Basel: S Karger 1971

Chichester: John Wiley

The fourth volume of this excellent series maintains the high standard of its precursors. The editors' plan is that the author of each contribution reviews the world literature on his subject, carefully analyses his own clinical material and on the basis of both presents his conclusions. They are to be congratulated on what has been achieved by this plan, as are the contributors to the present volume, which deals essentially with paediatric neurosurgical problems but also with certain congenital lesions occurring in adults.

Two excellent sections deal with diagnostic methods. That on angiographic determination of ventricular size is an indication of what can be learned from informed study of angiograms of high quality. An excellent review deals with the developments in the diagnostic use of radioactive isotopes and their value in paediatric neurosurgery. The problem of infantile hydrocephalus is fully dealt with and many will agree with the author's ethical approach to it. The other great neurosurgical problem in infancy, meningocele, is carefully considered, though the emphasis is perhaps more on what can be done than on what should be done.

Excellent chapters deal with craniostenosis, diastematomyelia and congenital dermal sinuses. There is a good account of congenital cysts of the brain, although their description as arachnoidal malformations is not fully justified. An outstandingly good chapter deals with the radiological demonstration and classification of spinal cord arteriovenous malformations. This includes an excellent account of the circulation of the spinal cord.

A further excellent article on the same lesions deals with their diagnosis and surgical treatment, and there is more besides.

The book is beautifully produced and very well illustrated and, in spite of the fact that a number of the contributors' native tongues are other than English, the writing is without fault. This excellent volume deserves to be very widely read.

J E A O'CONNELL

Speech and Reason

Language Disorder in Mental Disease

by D Wilfred Abse MD

containing The Life of Speech by Philipp Wegener
pp xiii + 310 \$12 £5.50

Charlottesville, Va.: University Press
of Virginia 1971

Bristol: John Wright

This volume contains the first translation into English of Philipp Wegener's 'The Life of Speech', a monograph based on lectures delivered in Germany in 1883 and 1884. In the leisurely, perspicuous style that marks the work of so many original thinkers of that time, he emphasizes the role of psychological – including unconscious – processes beneath the grammarian's surface-anatomy of language. He may have been heralding Chomsky's study of 'deep structures', but he was also preparing philology for those mental mechanisms that were to be disclosed by Freud and others in the next half-century. 'The Life of Speech' must surely be a classic milestone in the history of linguistics and specialists will be grateful for its appearance in English.

The rest of the book is taken up by another work of almost equal length: 'Language Disorder in Mental Disease' by Professor D W Abse.

This is a scholarly account of psychodynamic, especially Freudian concepts, as they apply to the phylogeny and ontogeny of language. An unusually wide range of literary and scientific sources are drawn upon. However, it should be noted that although the breakdown of verbal communication in hysteria and schizophrenia are considered in some detail a comprehensive review of language disturbance in disease is not provided. Altogether this is a handsome volume, but one for which most medical readers will need a dictionary.

J J FLEMINGER

Respiratory Function in Disease

by David V Bates MD FRCP(C) FRCP,

Peter T Macklem BA MD CM FRCP(C)

and Ronald V Christie MD MSC DSC FACP FRCP

2nd ed pp xxi + 584 illustrated £10.20

Philadelphia &c.: W B Saunders 1971

This is the second edition of a book which has already become established as a source of reference and instruction, particularly for clinicians who wish to understand more about respiratory function. This new edition maintains the excellence of the first and is enhanced by

the expansion of those sections concerned with the normal lung. The chapter on physiology is particularly good and can stand on its own as an excellent introduction for those wishing to understand respiratory physiology.

My main criticism of the book is that it does not really focus on the seminal problem concerning the role of respiratory function assessment in the management of respiratory conditions. There is a good chapter proposing an integrated approach to patient management but this chapter is too cursory for what is essentially the pivot of this book. The subsequent chapters concerned with various clinical conditions suffer as a result, and one is never sure whether one is reading a textbook concerned with thoracic medicine or with respiratory physiology, and the integration between them is uneven and sometimes hard to discern. I was particularly disappointed not to see the role of simple respiratory function tests in the management of asthma more fully discussed, as this provides a particularly good example of the value of an integrative approach.

In summary, this excellent book maintains its high standards but I hope in the next edition the authors will concentrate their minds even more closely on the integrated approach.

TIM CLARK

Bailey & Love's Short Practice of Surgery

revised by A J Harding Rains MS FRCS
and W Melville Capper FRCS
15th ed pp xii + 1296 illustrated £6.50
London: H K Lewis 1971

The appearance of the 15th edition in 39 years of this, the best known of all British surgical textbooks, confirms that its popularity is unabated.

The basic format of the book and contents remains unchanged. John Charnley's place as author of the section on orthopaedics and fractures has been taken by Michael Freeman who, though having revised the chapter, has maintained the high standard set by his predecessor.

In every chapter recent significant advances in surgical progress are incorporated. Thus advances in the understanding of gastric physiology and the etiology of gallstones are well described, whilst the sections on diverticular disease and assessment of thyroid function have been brought into line with current thinking. It is pleasing to see that aspiration of the peritoneal cavity is considered a valuable aid in the diagnosis of the acute abdomen. Alas, the same enthusiasm is not forthcoming for the widespread practice of aspirating breast cysts.

The only chapters that in any way disappoint are those on hæmorrhage and fluid balance. Retention of the recommendation that vasoconstrictor drugs should be used early in the treat-

ment of shock runs counter to modern thought, and a discussion on adrenergic receptor blockade in the management of shock is rendered inaccurate by the confusion of alpha with beta receptors. It is disappointing to see what should be an explicit section on the now widespread practice of intravenous alimentation dismissed in just over half a page of confusing and inadequate text.

These are, however, minor criticisms of a book which has continued to maintain the extraordinarily high standards set by previous editions. Once again Bailey and Love can be unhesitatingly recommended as a reliable basic textbook that will be of value to surgeons of all grades.

MILES IRVING

Hypothalamic Control of Lactation

by F G Sulman
pp xii + 235 £7.75
London: William Heinemann Medical 1970
Berlin &c.: Springer

This monograph contains much original information obtained by the author and his colleagues during their researches on the control of lactation in animals. It includes sections on the structure and properties of prolactin, and its interrelationships with growth hormone and other pituitary hormones in the production and control of lactation. The mechanisms of control of prolactin secretion are discussed and the evidence for the existence of a hypothalamic inhibiting hormone and the putative releasing hormone is clearly presented.

There is a large section on the mammatrophic action of various drug groups including the phenothiazines, butyrophenones and reserpine, but this is prefaced by an unhelpful division of pituitary trophic hormones into 'balanced' (those with a known feedback control), and 'unbalanced' (where the feedback control, if it exists, is not known). Also in this division luteinizing hormone and interstitial cell stimulating hormone are named as separate hormones subject to feedback by progestogens and androgens respectively, not a universally held view.

The section on the mode of action of different drugs is most interesting, and considerable detail is presented of how modifications of the basic phenothiazine ring may enhance or reduce the hypothalamic mediated mammatrophic action of this and other groups of drugs.

Methods of prolactin assay are discussed briefly, but the section dealing with problems of lactation in humans is disappointing and consists mainly of textbook descriptions of syndromes such as Chiari-Frommel, &c.

Overall this is an interesting and readable book, and it contains a comprehensive bibliography.

J C MARSHALL