

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

HISTORY OF NEUROLOGY

A History of Neurology. By Walther Riese, M.D. Pp. 223. \$4.00. New York: MD Publications, Inc. 1959.

Although most neurologists are thorough-going interactionists and empiricists their discipline remains one in which they are continually confronted with problems of mind-body relationship which they ignore as being irrelevant to the clinical problem. Professor Riese has written an admirable little book, which is really a review of the problems that arise in the mind-body situation and in the concepts of nervous energies. In 200 pages he has brought together a great deal of information, and on the basis of short quotations he analyses the contributions of philosophers and neurologists from Plato to Penfield, paying particular attention to the work of Hughlings Jackson and von Monakow; and if in the end his implication that the brain is an 'organ of mind' remains unsatisfactorily vague, he has at least given us a succinct summary of the history of neurological thought. Indeed the only criticism that one might level against this monograph is that its title is somewhat misleading, and it would be a great

pity if one were to reject it as a chronological survey of neurology rather than reading it for what it is—an introduction to neurological ontology.
J.M.MacG.

ACUTE INTERNAL DISEASES

Akute innere Krankheiten. 2 erweiterte und verbesserte Auflage. Diagnostische und therapeutische Hinweise in tabellarischer Übersicht. Von Prof. Dr. H. A. Kühn, Doz. Dr. H. Klepsig und Dr. E. Schildge. viii + 247 Seiten. DM 16.50. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1959.

This issue is intended to serve the purpose of a pocket note book for the busy practitioner both from the point of differential diagnosis as well as of emergency treatment. By and large it may be said that its contents speak for themselves; it is a case of 'good wine needs no bush'. Every practitioner will know the value of a pocket note book dealing with all the essential diseases and their appropriate treatment. Each disease is summarized with its important signs and symptoms as well as the special investigation required to confirm the presumptive diagnosis.
D.J.H.