

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS**MANAGEMENT OF THE PATIENT WITH
BRAIN DAMAGE**

Evaluation and Management of the Brain-Damaged Patient. By Jerome S. Tobis, M.D., and Milton Lowenthal, M.D. Pp. xii + 109. 33 illustrations. R4.80. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications and Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1960.

This book fills a gap which has long existed in the management of the brain-damaged patient. The magnitude of the problem relating to brain-damaged patients becomes startlingly evident when it is realized that 1.8 million persons in the USA are today suffering from hemiplegia; that there are 500,000 children suffering from cerebral palsy; and that some 800,000 persons are suffering from epilepsy. This does not take into account mental retardation from whatever cause.

The brain-damaged patient is classified within the framework of infections, intoxication, trauma, circulatory disturbances, convulsive disorders, metabolic disturbances, and primary and secondary neoplasms.

Since human behaviour depends on a synthesis of the activity of the musculo-skeletal, visceral and nervous systems, evaluation is based upon the interpretation of sensory, motor and psychological function. Psychological functions include disturbances of emotional response.

The management and rehabilitation of the brain-damaged patient follows along well-defined and topically accepted patterns. Of particular interest is the evaluation and treatment of the cerebral palsied child, and the rehabilitative measures used in the treatment of the paraplegic. Bracing and crutches are discussed all too briefly.

The book is well illustrated and well printed, and can be

The publication of a second edition of this work only fifteen years after the first, is an indication of its popularity. Both for the ophthalmologist and neurologist this work is of vital importance, bringing as it does the gap between these two specialties.

This edition remains essentially clinical with a detailed exposition of all ocular tests relating to neuro-ophthalmology, placing some emphasis on those attributed to the author. The chapter on visual fields and their interpretation is excellent. Specialized investigations such as the E.R.G. and pupillometry, have been added, but wisely confined to their clinical application.

It is natural that many of the author's expressed views should be controversial. However, positive exception must be taken to at least two statements, the one that retrobulbar neuritis occurs frequently in diabetes (p. 140), and the other that the physiological cup may reach the inferior or temporal margin of the disc (p. 269).

This work has its faults, but on the whole it serves as a most valuable reference to a difficult subject. M.H.L.

MEDICAL TREATMENT

Textbook of Medical Treatment. By various authors. Edited by Sir Derrick Dunlop, B.A. (Oxon.), M.D., F.R.C.P. Ed., F.R.C.P. Lond., Sir Stanley Davidson, B.A., M.D., Hon. M.D. (Oslo), F.R.C.P. Ed., F.R.C.P. Lond., and S. Alstead, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P. Ed., F.R.C.P. Lond., F.R.F.P.S. Pp. xix + 983. R6.00. 33c postage. London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1961.

When the first edition of this book appeared in 1939, it was stated that the authors had attempted to be 'extremely explicit



Clinical Methods of Neuro-Ophthalmologic Examination. Second completely revised and enlarged edition. By Alfred Kestenbaum, M.D. Pp. xii + 577. Illustrated, \$16.75. New York and London: Grune and Stratton, 1961.

experience.

It is not a 'picture book', for there are indeed few illustrations. It is a textbook, and all the pictures of cases one needs are contained in the text. A.H.T.