

Vertebral artery aneurysm like other intracranial aneurysms may remain silent. That sudden subarachnoid haemorrhage with or without coma and death may occur, or unilateral migraine or sudden and progressive localizing neurological signs, due to pressure on neighbourhood structures, may reveal the existence of the vertebral aneurysm. Dandy has emphasized bilateral motor signs and symptoms as being strongly suggestive. Vertebral angiography probably is the best current diagnostic aid.

Summary

A case of right vertebral artery aneurysm with unilateral migraine is described, rupture of which caused fatal subarachnoid haemorrhage.

Subarachnoid haemorrhage caused death in less than one hour (45 minutes). This event simulated coronary thrombosis or pulmonary embolism, but these were dismissed as unlikely due to the age of the patient.

Mechanism of death was due to medullary compression and consequent respiratory paralysis by dense blood clots around brain stem and medulla.

My thanks are due to Dr. K. A. Latter, consultant neurologist, for valuable help in the preparation of this paper.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- DANDY, W. E., 'Intracranial Arterial Aneurysms,' Ithaca, N.Y., Comstock Publishing Co. (1944).
 McDONALD, C. A., and KORB, M., 'Intracranial Aneurysms,' *Arch. Neurol. and Psychiat.*, 42, 298, 1939.

Book Reviews

CIBA FOUNDATION COLLOQUIA ON AGEING

Vol. I—General Aspects

Edited by G. E. W. WOLSTENHOLME, O.B.E., M.A., M.B., B.Ch. and MARGARET P. CAMERON, M.A., A.B.L.S. Pp. xii + 255, illustrated. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1955. 30s.

Colloquia on Ageing—Vol. I, is the verbatim proceedings of a symposium 'Ageing—general aspects,' sponsored by the Ciba Foundation and held in London immediately prior to the Third Congress of the International Association of Gerontology, July 1954.

The list of those participating in or attending the Colloquium gives an idea of the wealth of interest and factual data likely to be found within the pages of this book. The reader has the opportunity not only of studying the scientific papers submitted, but also of reviewing all the discussions which followed each other with the names of each contributor—and this added information must provoke greater thought on and study of the subjects discussed. The Chairman's opening remarks indicate at once the broad interpretation of the subject to be discussed—'during the course of our discussions we shall wander from the most general aspects of the problem to the particular . . .'

The introduction 'The definition and measurement of senescence,' makes a fascinating opening to a subject which is so far riddled with insoluble

problems—but again as the chairman said in his opening remarks, 'Perhaps it is too much to hope that at the end of this conference we shall be able to define ageing precisely and clearly—but possibly many of us would feel that a lot of fun had gone out of life if the riddle were solved so easily.'

The book contains results of research work and information of intrinsic interest to biologists, biochemists, nutritionists, doctors, psychiatrists, pathologists, research workers and indeed to all those with a scientific training who are interested in ageing.

The relative roles of genetics, environments and stresses and strains upon the process of ageing are discussed again and again throughout the papers and the arguments propounded and conclusions drawn are worthy of study. The sections on the 'Mental aspects and Psychological aspects of ageing,' touch upon matters of great importance in considering the medical and social aspects of old age. Other subjects of outstanding importance include those concerned with 'Respiratory function and Age,' 'The changing incidence of certain vascular lesions of the skin with ageing,' 'Calcium metabolism in old age as related to ageing of the skeleton,' and the sections on nutrition.

Although no dogmatic conclusions are drawn, the questions provoked and the free discussion recorded opens a window on to the subject in a way which is seldom afforded except to those taking part in such a conference.

The Ciba Foundation is to be congratulated that

it could draw together such participants and many will feel that the Foundation is owed a debt of gratitude for publishing these deliberations.

M.W.

THE MEDICAL ANNUAL

Edited by SIR HENRY TIDY, K.B.E., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., and R. MILNES WALKER, M.S., F.R.C.S., with 47 contributors. Pp. xlv + 548, with 63 illustrations. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1955. 32s. 6d.

This book is an annual abstract of important papers of general interest. Mohammed can no longer go to the mountain of medical literature, and this annual successfully brings a panoramic glimpse of the mountain to Mohammed. Its success is based upon expert editing and a galaxy of contributors of an eminence rarely found in abstracting services.

No doubt there are economic reasons for the unfortunate inclusion of drug-plugging advertisements, but even these include such intriguing matters as 'a culture for Candida.' Again, some hormones continue to be issued in blunderbuss combinations and, the medicinal compound of the ballad, are efficacious in every case.

The volume can be highly recommended to doctors in every branch of the profession. There can be few medical books with such a universal appeal.

I.L.E.

MYSTERIOUS WATERS TO GUARD

By LESLIE BOURNE, M.D., C.M., M.Sc., F.R.C.P., F.I.C.A., D.A., F.A.C.A., F.F.A.R.C.S. Pp. xvi + 398, illustrated. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1955. 42s.

Under this title is published a collection of addresses and essays by the distinguished Canadian Anaesthetist, Dr. Leslie Bourne, Emeritus Professor of Anaesthesia at McGill University, during the last 30 years.

Dr. Bourne deals with a wide variety of subjects in his addresses. There are two short historical reviews; accounts of recent advances given in the years 1934, 1948 and 1950; the choice of anaesthesia for tuberculous patients and for emergency surgery; and many other subjects. His style is clear and easily readable, but his tendency to commence his addresses with references to the great philosophers and the occasional inclusion of poetry seems pompous.

Among his essays are his impressions of the celebrations of the Centenary of Anaesthesia in London in 1946, which was printed in *Anaesthesiology* in 1948, and an essay entitled 'Breathing in Anesthesia' which appeared as an editorial in the same journal in March 1942.

A criticism of the work is the inclusion of many chapters with much the same content. Subjects discussed with much frequency in the first half of

the book are Metabolic Changes in Anaesthesia; Analgesia in Obstetrics; Analeptics; and Pre-medication for Relief of Pre-operative Fear, while descriptions of the three-year course in Anaesthesia at McGill University occur in at least three chapters in the latter half.

Photographs of many well-known anaesthetists and scientists from various parts of the world and professors at McGill University, and inexplicably of a late headmaster of the Lodge School, Barbados, are distributed through the book.

Full references are given at the end.

The printers have erred badly in the top line of page 146, otherwise the book is well produced.

BREAST CANCER AND ITS DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

By EDWARD F. LEWINSON, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. 478. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1955. 114s.

This book is a comprehensive presentation of modern thought and knowledge regarding carcinoma of the breast. Every conceivable aspect of the subject is fully dealt with, the British and American literature is thoroughly reviewed, the illustrations are of high standard and, for the most part, the text is clear and logical.

As might perhaps be expected from a member of the surgical school founded by Halsted, the author is a staunch supporter of radical mastectomy. He appears to look to extended radical mastectomy for future advances in treatment and has little use for the conservative attitude towards operation which has become popular in recent years. It cannot be said that he produces convincing proof to support these views.

H.L.B.

CORNEAL GRAFTS

Edited by B. W. RYCROFT, O.B.E., M.D., D.O.M.S., F.R.C.S. Pp. xii + 285. London: Butterworth & Co. Ltd. 1955. 57s. 6d.

This, the first text book on Corneal Grafting to be published in English, is a welcome and important addition to ophthalmic literature. The list of 15 contributors from five countries (Britain, France, Spain, Switzerland and the United States) is an impressive one. It includes many of the leading authorities on the subject throughout the world. The result is a reliable and well-balanced account of every aspect of keratoplasty.

The first three chapters deal with the history of the operation, the anatomy and physiology of the cornea and the histo-pathology of corneal grafts. Apart from providing a useful introduction to the clinical side of the subject, they should be of value to everyone interested in tissue grafting. The main body of the book is devoted to the selection of cases, the operative details of lamellar and perforating