

The Neuroanatomical Basis for Clinical Neurology.

Talmadge L. Peele. McGraw-Hill, New York-London, 1954. ix + 564 pp. Illus. \$12.50.

As stated in the preface, the purpose of this volume is to present descriptive neuroanatomy with some principles of neurophysiology and their application to clinical neurology. This purpose is achieved admirably. The neuroanatomy is presented in detail, the neurophysiology is that useful to the clinician, and the clinical material is confined to basic symptoms and signs and classical syndromes. The subject matter is discussed by functional systems. In each system the anatomy, physiology, and clinical application are presented successively in that order. Circulation of the brain and spinal cord are discussed fully, giving the space to this subject that it has come to deserve. A brief but adequate section concerning the development of the nervous system is included.

I am pleased that the material is printed in half-page columns. As an aid to those who will use the book as a reference, the chapters are divided into sections under which the chief subjects appear in darker type, making it much easier to find the desired material. The bibliography is extensive and up to date and stresses the clinical aspects. The illustrations are numerous and for the most part excellent. However, the reproductions of the Weigert stained brainstem sections are not as useful to the student as they might be if they had been enlarged further.

The book is ideal for the physician in training in neurology, neurosurgery, or psychiatry, to be used not only as a comprehensive review of the basic anatomy and physiology but also as a reference volume. It appears to be too long and detailed to be used as a textbook for first- or second-year medical students. The plan of presentation, however, makes supervised reading assignments feasible and under such circumstances could serve as a textbook for neuroanatomy and neurophysiology and as an introduction to clinical neurology. Any physician practicing in fields related to the nervous system will find this an invaluable reference book.

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Wool: Its Chemistry and Physics. Peter Alexander and Robert F. Hudson. Chapman & Hall, London; Reinhold, New York, 1954. viii + 404 pp. Illus. + plates. \$10.

The dynamic, intellectually independent senior author led a wool research group that included Hudson through seven unusually productive years during which this group made contributions to a remarkable variety of problems of both practical and fundamental interest. Their interpretation of the status of wool research as of early 1952 accordingly merits and repays serious study and is recommended to profes-

sional textile research scientists and advanced students. Newcomers to textile research and workers in related fields will find this book valuable for orientation and a convenient introduction to the technical literature. However, it is recommended with certain reservations that will be explained later.

The authors deserve thanks and commendation for having the energy and rashness to attempt a comprehensive account of wool chemistry and physics. Coverage of rate processes within the fiber, sorption and swelling, and acid-base characteristics are especially detailed. Illustrations are abundant and well chosen. (The biochemistry and biology of wool are not discussed, notwithstanding a statement to the contrary on the jacket.) The chemical viewpoint predominates throughout, with the result that electric properties, for example, are treated briefly in connection with various other topics; optical birefringence is mentioned only as occurring; and mechanical properties, such as tensile strength and elasticity, are discussed without reference to representative numerical values. The book is especially valuable for its convenient authoritative account of the research of the authors' own group. More than 10 percent of all references cited are to its work, including a number of interesting results not published elsewhere.

Certain criticisms have been anticipated by the authors. They explain in the preface that the historical development of the various subjects treated has not been attempted. Nevertheless, in various instances, for example in describing sorption, acid binding, and chemical structure, material is cited that is suggested by the authors or is considered by the reviewer to be mainly of historical interest. On the other hand, and in contrast with these citations of pros and cons, the authors give notice that they have set forth their own views of certain controversial subjects even in the absence of conclusive evidence. In most cases, I find no fault with their rather limited application of this policy. However, I feel that the account of wool morphology is unfairly arbitrary at several points, and especially so in describing the "sub-cuticle membrane." This is characterized in different places as "thin" and "relatively thick"; and as "situated between the scales and cortical cells," as possibly not including cells resembling cortical cells (with reference to criticism by Gralén), and as "made up in part of cells" considered on morphological grounds to form "part of the cortex." A less polemic and more useful description of the authors' preparation would be as a chemically resistant part of the cortex of certain fibers.

The book is marred by evidence of haste or carelessness in preparation. There are many easily noted typographic errors, which include faulty cross references to chapter or page or figure and faulty references to the literature, including garbled citations. A smaller number of minor grammatical blunders and apparent slips of the pen occur, such as the characterization of the isoelectric region of wool as a high