The second part, reprinted from October 1968, is edited by Martin Entin of Montreal and is based upon lectures given by a group of foreign surgeons. Much of it is basic, some is repetition of the same material presented by these authors on other occasions, as would be expected in such a course of postgraduate studies. Fortunately, the inclusion of two orthopedists, Kaplan and Swanson, and of Verdan, who is primarily a general surgeon and who writes on fractures of the scaphoid, has prevented the issue from giving the reader the impression that surgery of the hand is solely within the province of the plastic surgeon.

Reprinting the two clinics and combining them in one volume makes for easy reference to the desired articles, especially by plastic surgeons. Others will miss the treatment of other topics which are a part of reconstructive surgery and of surgery of the hand.

JOSEPH H. BOYES, M.D.

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PSYCHOTHERAPY IN ACTION—D. Ewen Cameron, M.D. (Glasgow), D.P.M. (London), F.R.C.P. (C), Late Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry, McGill University, Psychiatrist-in-Chief, Royal Victoria Hospital, Research Professor of Psychiatry, Albany Medical College, and Director, Allan Memorial Institute of Psychiatry. Grune and Stratton, Inc., 381 Park Avenue South, New York, N. Y. (10016), 1965. 228 pages. $8.50.

Some books, regardless of the quality of their contribution, immediately establish themselves as part of the mainstream of a point of view which, while perhaps contested, is broadly shared at a particular time. They address themselves to issues of recognized relevance in language (and with methods) that are commonly accepted. There are other writings, instead, which clearly have a very individual stamp and express only the author's special position. Psychotherapy in Action by the late D. Ewen Cameron, for many years the chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at McGill University, belongs to the latter group.

The book which describes basic psychotherapeutic approaches and may be looked upon as a short text on this subject, is mainly a distillate of the author's personal experience and an expression of his particular convictions. It gives only very few references from the very large literature on psychotherapy and those which are cited would not generally be regarded as the classic papers in the field. Psychoanalytic authors largely are avoided.

Cameron's position is eclectic and represents a personal blend of views and approaches derived from Meyerian psychobiology, and from conditioning. Psychoanalytic concepts are mentioned only very briefly and often in order to be quickly dismissed. Transference is said to be operative "only in a limited number of cases" and the Oedipus complex is regarded as an anachronism which has been surpassed and left behind. A chapter is devoted to "uncovering," but the emphasis is placed primarily on verbal "desensitization" (the process by which the affective response to certain emotionally loaded situations or ideas gradually is deconditioned) and to adaptive "problem-solving." Emphasis is also given to the use of the tape recorder in psychotherapy and to the value of playing back to the patient portions of earlier therapeutic sessions, a modification which Cameron helped to promote.

The book essentially consists of three sections, a short initial one devoted to a discussion of basic premises, a longer central one dealing with fundamental psychotherapeutic techniques and a description of the usual course of events in psychotherapy, and a final one which reviews the applicability of psychotherapy to the various clinical syndromes.

The style is clear and literate (e.g., "Basic premises are those deep convictions which move and shape, form and change every aspect of every culture that man has made"), although the presentation at times tends to be repetitive and a bit diffuse. There is a penchant for personal terminology which usually is not as helpful as the author apparently thought. For example, "intensification syndrome" is used to refer to "a set of integrated functions which come into operation whenever the individual is under stress." Here and there are a few curious items, in part perhaps due to the author's limited opportunity to edit and proofread the book. For instance, Rogers' psychotherapy is called directive (p. 46) and vitamin B6 is considered an euphorizing agent (p. 61).

Some opinions are expressed on clinical matters which many would disagree. He says, for example, "The so-called conversion hysteria has become quite infrequent in occurrence. . . . La belle indifference remains more of a clinical fiction than a reality."

In sum, the book cannot be considered a landmark in the literature on psychotherapy and suffers, in fact, from limitations imposed on it by a very personal viewpoint. However, it will find readers among those interested in psychotherapy, especially beginners, because it deals with basic issues simply.

PIETRO CASTELNUOVO-TEDESCO, M.D.

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This is the sixth volume of Progress in Hematology since 1956 and ably complements Wintrobe's text, Blood and Seminars in Hematology. The leading paper is a 70 page review on immunosuppression, covering the entire field—current concepts, method of approach, transplantation typing, auto-immune disorders, etc. A 40-page section by Dacie on auto-immune hemolytic anemias brings up to date his 1962 volume on this subject. Greenwald and Perry outline the use of human blood components and Rizza and Biggs focus down on the use of plasma fractions in hemophilia and von Willebrand's disease. There are chapters on the prevention of Rh hemolytic disease, and the clinical usefulness of iron chelating agents, intrinsic factor and other B12 transport proteins, and the mechanism of thrombosis. The control of human hemoglobin synthesis in health and disease is presented in a very readable manner. Newer tracer techniques picture bone marrow mapping, spleen scanning and other procedures. The bibliographies are lengthy and references up to 1968.

This volume is a must for hematologists, investigative or clinical. It will be something of value to the blood banker, the organ transplanter, pediatrician, obstetrician, isotopologist, clinical pathologist and internist.

WILLIAM F. LUTTGENS, M.D.

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PICTORIAL MANUAL OF NEUROLOGIC TESTS — Maurice W. Van Allen, B.A., M.D., Professor of Neurology, College of Medicine, University of Iowa, Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc., 35 East Wacker Drive, Chicago (60601), 1969. 200 pages, illustrated by George Buckley, $7.95.

This manual incorporates many clinical neurological examination methods illustrated with simple line drawings including the underlying normal and disturbed anatomical and physiological mechanisms. It includes both the clinical neurological examination of the adult and a special
section for the infant. The basis and possible clinical significance of common abnormal neurological signs and syndromes is related to altered structure and function. An additional section is devoted to special clinical diagnostic procedures including lumbar puncture, vestibular tests, evaluation of mental status, aphasia and altered consciousness.

The use of a weighted 256 cycle tuning fork shown on page 31 in doing the Weber and Rinne tests of hearing would be more correctly done with an unweighted 512 cycle fork (though a generous drug manufacturer continues to give weighted 256 cycle forks to medical students in recent years). Auditory and vibratory receptors in the eighth and fifth cranial nerves may be simultaneously stimulated by the weighted 256 cycle fork but not by the unweighted 512 cycle fork, avoiding confusion of stimuli for the patient. The use of an unweighted 256 cycle fork shown on page 66 to test vibratory perception would be more appropriately done with a weighted 256 or 128 cycle fork since the weighted fork enhances and prolongs the vibratory stimulus.

This manual will be useful for medical students, interns, residents, and practicing physicians dealing with neurological patients to help them understand and carry out a more meaningful neurological examination and evaluation. There are a comprehensive index and short bibliography.

CHRISTIAN HERRMANN, JR., M.D.

ACHALASIA OF THE ESOPHAGUS (MAJOR PROBLEMS IN CLINICAL SURGERY: Volume IX) — F. Henry Ellis, Jr., M.D., Ph.D. (Surgery), F.A.C.S., Consultant, Section of Surgery, Mayo Graduate School of Medicine (University of Minnesota), Rochester; and Arthur M. Olsen, M.D., M.S. (Medicine), F.A.C.S., Consultant, Section of Medicine, Mayo Clinic; Professor of Medicine, Mayo Graduate School of Medicine (University of Minnesota), Rochester. (Volume IX in the Series Major Problems in Clinical Surgery. J. Eagerbert Dunphy, M.D., Consulting Editor.) W. B. Saunders Company, 512 pages, 1968, $10.95.

This encyclopedic monograph on the often misunderstood disease termed Achalasia provides a fine reference text. The authors have had long standing personal experience and interest in esophageal problems and portrayed their knowledge in a forthright and intensively detailed manner. The chapters on pathogenesis, clinical features, and treatment of the disease are well organized, complete, and well documented. Some readers will find the coverage of motility studies of the esophagus in healthy and diseased states interesting and refreshing. Although this book is included in the monograph series of Major Problems in Clinical Surgery, it is well referenced and documented. The book is recommended as a detailed reference source.

EDWARD J. HURLEY, M.D.


The student of renal physiology will find in this new text on Physiology of the Human Kidney the most comprehensive body of reference material since that compiled by Homer Smith in 1951. Of special interest to the practitioners are chapters by Drs. Mullrow and Goffinet on the controversial role of the kidney on blood pressure control, (the renin-angiotensin system) and by Ersliev on erythropoiesis. In addition, there are excellent chapters on the metabolic aspects of renal function.

Any student of renal physiology will find this book an important addition to his library.

JAMES HOPPER, JR., M.D.