

cussed at length. Miss Turtle warns that hormones are likely to prove disappointing, and with few exceptions, operations for a "change of sex" are "rarely successful, psychologically physically or socially". The mutilated individual is, "left to his sexlessness, his lonely world and life little changed around him for all his efforts". As an alternative to surgery, whose hazards and undesirable effects are well described, the author offers transsexualists many pages of advice. She exhorts them to count their blessings, offer their services to humanity, "look to the openness and cleanness of their hearts" and seek the solace of religion. Unusual powers of logic and understanding may seemingly enhance the effects of lofty sentiments, for one of the cases quoted with evident approval reverted completely to his male outlook on life, having been enabled by the exercise of these powers to appreciate the flaws in his arguments. Neither her own experiences nor her acquaintance with fifty transsexualists have taught the author the futility of logic and moral exhortation.

Being evidently more gifted for dissociation than detachment, she is untroubled by thoughts about possible limitations, and launches confidently into an exposition on nuclear sex in which some strange statements are made about testicular feminization, among other things. Some of the biographical accounts of transsexualists are, however, well done and the author has some interesting things to say on the social and legal aspects of transsexualism and the problems of adjustment these unfortunate individuals suffer, whether or not they have received the surgical treatment they seek.

MARTIN ROTH.

## 6. NEUROLOGY

**Electroencephalography: A Symposium on Its Various Aspects.** Edited by DENIS HILL and GEOFFREY PARR. 2nd edition. London: Macdonald. 1963. Pp. 509. Price 90s.

The first edition of this work, published in 1950, was a milestone in the development of clinical electroencephalography, and the long-awaited second edition is likely to join its predecessor as a standard work of reference in this field. But while it has changed little in its general character, being again a collection of authoritative review articles dealing with different aspects of the subject, this second edition now becomes part of the enormous literature which has meanwhile grown up, and it may to some extent fall between the demands of the student for a good introductory volume (perhaps better met by one of the several shorter books now available) and

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the specialized monographs and journal Papers to which the expert will have to refer for fuller information on a particular topic.

The new edition also serves as a reminder of how little we have progressed in understanding the mechanism of the EEG during the intervening thirteen years, a fact emphasized by the chapter on the physiological basis of the EEG by Whitteridge and Walsh. Electroencephalography still remains largely an empirical art, based on clinical experience.

There are good chapters on the EEG in normal children and adults and on the changes characteristic of different lesions. Of especial interest are the sections on Epilepsy and the EEG in Psychiatry, both by Professor Hill. The latter is the best review article on this topic known to the present writer.

It seems a pity that the book was printed on non-glossy paper, as the standard of reproduction of the records is not always as good as it might be.

A. M. HALLIDAY.

**A Follow-up Study of Head Wounds in World War II.** By A. EARL WALKER and SEYMOUR JABLON. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. 1961. Pp. 202. Price \$1.75.

This volume, published with the support of the U.S. Veterans Administration, gives a statistical follow-up review of 932 American ex-servicemen who had suffered head injuries during World War II, and who were considered representative of the head-injured ex-servicemen throughout the country. For practical purposes only those servicemen who resided close to special follow-up centres in Baltimore, New York, Boston, and Los Angeles were selected for study, and of these 739 were actually interviewed at times ranging from 4 to 12 years after their injury when assessments were made of any persisting neurological, personality, intellectual or EEG defects. Special enquiries were made into their home, economic, and family adjustments. It was felt from a perusal of Army Clinical Records that in most respects the 193 men who failed to report for personal interview were similar in their distribution of injuries to the men who had reported, although the non-respondents might possibly have exhibited a lower incidence of motor paresis and of epilepsy.

Most of the men had had missile injuries of various types, although about 20 per cent. had had scalp lacerations with concussion due to non-combat injuries. Numerous tables are given correlating all sorts of factors, and in this respect the monograph is a veritable compendium of data.

However, it is difficult to extrapolate these data to the ordinary run of head injury cases seen in British

civil life. Thus, at the time of discharge from the U.S. Army, approximately 9 months after injury, 42 per cent. of the patients did not complain of any neurological symptoms, but 6 to 7 years later only 9 per cent. were free of symptoms. The commonest of these symptoms was post-traumatic headache. Epilepsy occurred in 28 per cent. of the men examined, but only 23 per cent. had had more than one definite epileptic attack. Most of these had developed seizures within 9 months of injury, and as in other reviews the incidence was higher when there had been definite evidence of penetration of the dura.

This monograph will be of interest mainly to those concerned with the rehabilitation of brain-injured ex-servicemen. It does not discuss the treatment of the head-injured in the acute stages, but it gives a longitudinal appraisal of the after-effects once the patient becomes convalescent.

M. A. FALCONER.

**The Physiological Basis of Mental Activity.** (Proceedings of a Symposium held in Mexico City, October, 1961.) Edited by RAUL HERNANDEZ PEON. EEG and Clinical Neurophysiology Supplement No. 24. Amsterdam: Elsevier Publishing Company. 1963. Pp. 283. Price 90s.

In the preface the editor, who was also the organizer of the Symposium of Neurological Sciences, mentions his hopes that "The day does not appear remote when the neurophysiological invasion into the fields of psychology and psychiatry would result in a unique science of brain functioning with a common language for scientists interested in their different aspects." The papers collected in this volume of 282 + 12 pages, present us with a formidable amount of information. Practically all the papers describe electrophysiological studies at cerebral level, often in relation to the study of discrete areas and others of single cells. It would be difficult to give the reader of this review a balanced summary of the contents of this interesting and stimulating book which is beautifully produced and rich in well-chosen illustrations. The apparent unevenness between chapters is partly related to the rapid increase in knowledge in some particular fields more than others. The selected bibliography at the end of each chapter varies from half a page to nearly four pages. Each chapter is written as if it was a paper in a scientific journal, and the reviewer, who was not present at the meeting, wonders whether the sub-title of this book is justified (proceedings of a Symposium). What might have been a lively discussion on many of the important chapters is not included in the book.