

the section should remain in each reagent. This alone makes the book of greatest possible value to the beginner of neurological histology. As will be seen the methods given are the best of their kind and the ones most commonly used by students of the nervous system. As to certain small details opinions may differ from the descriptions given, but on the whole they are admirable with the exception of the Nissl method which is, we think, hardly what the originator has recommended in recent years. It is a pity that Dr Hardesty has omitted mention of the cutting of sections directly from 96 per cent alcohol without paraffin imbedding, with subsequent staining off the slide. If we recall the matter correctly, Nissl made much of this one point of non-imbedding, and we have now and then heard the question discussed as to whether the heat necessary for the imbedding did not cause artefacts.

Of the descriptions of the methods of preservation and the directions for dissection of the nervous system nothing but praise can be said. It is also a most excellent idea to make the student familiar with the new standard nomenclature [B N A]. As a whole we know of no similar book which will be as valuable to the student of neurological technique, and the author is to be congratulated on his work.

An Atlas of the Medulla and Midbrain. By FLORENCE R. SABIN. pp. 123; 7 colored plates, one black plate and 52 figures. (Baltimore: The Friedenwald Company, 1901.) Price \$1.75.

This book consists of a detailed account of a model of the medulla oblongata, pons Varolii and mesencephalon, which was made in the anatomical laboratory of the Johns Hopkins University by a reconstruction in wax of every alternate slice of a series of horizontal sections of the brain-stem of a new-born babe. The sections had been stained by the method of Weigert, so as to differentiate clearly the various nerve tracts, which are so distinct, the one from another, at the time of birth.

In the reconstruction only the important nerve tracts and the compact masses of grey matter have been represented, so that a glance at the model reveals the exact shape and relations of the peculiarly-contorted grey-masses and intertwining fibre-tracts, and enables the student to form an accurate mental picture of the most complicated and difficult region of the brain, such as no other method of study can convey.

Miss Sabin has carried out the arduous and laborious task of building the reconstruction in a manner so careful and patently successful that for the first time an accurate and trustworthy model is provided of a region which so many people have hitherto attempted to represent graphically by less tedious and correspondingly more inaccurate means.

The series of drawings representing the wax reconstruction has been so happily executed by Mr. Max Brodel that the model itself is hardly necessary.

Miss Sabin's description is full and complete and is illustrated by a large number of drawings both of the horizontal sections, from which the model was built up, as well as a "control series" of transverse sections of another brain-stem of the same age.

The view obtained of familiar structures is so novel, and one's attention so riveted in the mental accommodation, that the reader hardly looks for new observations. Nevertheless, the author has not only critically summarised the current literature of the structure of the medulla, pons and midbrain, but has also added to our knowledge of these regions.

The bibliography, which is intended for students, attains the happy mean of being sufficient without being bewildering.

This book and the model which it describes must convince anyone, who has carefully studied the structure of the brain-stem by means of the examination of sections, of the inadequacy of the conception of this complex region which he can acquire by such means; and it will be an invaluable aid for conveying to students an accurate understanding of this important part of the brain, which could not otherwise be acquired even by months of careful study.

G. E. S.

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