at the 1962 meeting of the Gerontological Society. The symposium was organized around the concept that the biological, psychological, and social conditions of early life have an important bearing on behavior and performance in the later years. As the editor notes, the nature and content of the papers varies from contributions to concepts and theories to reports of specific research. This wide variation in the nature of the papers does not make for easy reading. In fact, the reader may wonder whether some of the authors were really aware of the over-all purpose of the symposium.

The editor has arranged the papers under four major headings, viz., (a) Background—concepts and issues, (b) Biological manifestations of growth and aging, (c) Changes in psychological functions, and (d) Personality and social processes.

The papers by Havighurst and Birren, Anderson, Neugarten, Kuhlen, and Blenkner address themselves to the goal of the symposium, namely, the potential influences of early development upon later life. In general, authors who have been concerned with adulthood and later life were more successful in incorporating knowledge about growth and development in the total life sequence than were the authors who were primarily concerned with research in growth and development. However, the book serves as a useful step in developing the concept that adults and elderly people are in part a reflection of their earlier development and experiences.

N. W. Shock


Despite the fact that accidents are the leading cause of death among young persons (age one to 34), accident prevention lags far behind the control of most diseases. This may be due in part to great differences in research efforts, public attitudes, and understanding. There still is widespread belief at all levels of education and sophistication that accidents "just happen," that they defy systematic study beyond mere tabulation. These misconceptions have delayed progress in research and prevention so that the quantity and quality of accident prevention research contrasts sharply with that of medical research. This book contains ample evidence that the epidemiological approach, so effectively used in the control of communicable diseases, can also be applied to the study and control of accidental injuries.

This book is an impressive piece of work. Its purpose, as stated by the authors, is "to bring within a single volume significant studies in accident research, and to embed these studies as examples in a text dealing with the methodology of accident research." They certainly have achieved their aim.

Interspersed with evaluative comments and constructive guidelines, this book provides convenient access to major portions of the most significant research literature. It points up flaws in methodology, cautions against common pitfalls, and calls attention to neglected areas requiring further investigation.

The multidisciplinary approach to the study of accidents is reflected in the subjects covered. These include: statistical technics, data sources and methodologies, behavioral research, psychological approaches, social and cultural factors, as well as environmental and other factors that determine injury. One chapter is devoted to the controversial subject of accident proneness.

This work will be useful not only as a manual for those engaged in accident research, but also as a textbook on accident prevention and a reference book.

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for everyone concerned with safety activities. The authors have made a contribution which will, no doubt, be of substantial value in this field.

Lisel Lowen

Computers in Medicine and Biology.


This series of 40 papers was presented at a conference held by the New York Academy of Sciences in 1963. These are presented in seven parts consisting of: (1) Methods and Systems, (2) Technological Foundations, (3) Physiology, (4) Neurophysiology, (5) Psychiatry and Psychophysiology, (6) Biological Applications, and (7) Cardiology.

Parts 3-7 are examples of applications in research and investigation.

Considering the limitations of time and media for presentation of the varied topics, the content of these papers and the superb editorial structure should provide some interest to most interested readers. Further consideration requires recognition of developments and experiences during the two years elapsed since the conference. Several of the authors would cast only a historical glance toward their contributions of that occasion due to ensuing advances and experiences. However, for those who have general interests in the topics, background material may well be obtained from the presentations. Those who are advanced in computerization will perhaps find many of the presentations of only historic interest.

Certainly, only general bases for consideration in current development of computers and systems could be gleaned from the papers. For the most part the examples in parts 3-7 are on specific and (at the time) exciting applications. Absence is conspicuous of the more mundane but ubiquitous tasks of ordinary data management which has been and remains a large segment of the biomedical researcher’s load. Readers may imply the untruth that computers have application only to the glittering and the exotic.

Fay M. Hemphill


This volume of 442 pages is a record of presentations and panel discussions at the Second International Conference on Congenital Malformations held in July, 1963. Thirty-four leading authorities gave papers under eight headings; cytogenetics, cell genetics, genetic variation in proteins, gene action in relation to differentiation and development, developmental mechanisms, extrinsic factors in congenital malformations of man, epidemiologic studies, and management of human congenital defects. The panelists and moderators are leaders in their fields. Except for the papers in the last section, the presentations are directed mostly to workers in the special fields and require more than casual knowledge of the reader. Each paper begins with a brief review of the subject and continues with a discussion of recent developments. There is surprisingly little repetition. There is a bibliography for almost all the papers and even for some of the discussions. The index has been carefully prepared. The publishers are to be congratulated on the format and the high quality of the illustrations and the scientific committee on the choice of subjects and participants.

Henry P. Goldberg