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BOOK REVIEW

BRAIN DAMAGE IN BOXERS

A. H. Roberts

Pitman Medical £1.50

This is one of the most important contributions to the literature of Sport Medicine of its decade. Its significance lies less in its subject, important in its limited way as this may be, but in its demonstration of a completely objective and precise approach to the problem. Dr. Roberts is clearly aware of the limitations of his study (the fact that it is not fully representative, that it is retrospective) and draws his conclusions well within those limits, indicating with almost dramatic clarity the natural history of Boxers' Encephelopathy with an absence of deliberate emphasis that sets his work apart from that of most other authors in the same field. Indeed, unlike such authors Dr. Roberts has clearly not set out to prove a point but simply to observe and record. To some therefore this book will prove a disappointment providing as it does a little but only a little ammunition for both antagonists and protagonists of boxing alike. For the majority however it confirms unequivocally what most of us suspected anyway but will, it is to be hoped, stand as a yardstick against which all future utterances on the subject may be measured. This book should find a home on the shelves of all students of Sports Medicine.