

doctor who has a patient suffering from multiple myeloma which is being treated by the newer drug Melphalan, could turn to this book to obtain the information which he seeks in a few paragraphs giving considerable detail but not at too great length nor in too technical jargon.

Depression. Clinical, experimental and theoretical aspects. AARON T. BECK, M.D. London. Staples Press. 1967. Pp. xiv+370. Price £3 5s. 0d.

Since the second world war, the reviewer has read no less than 12 books entirely devoted to the subject of depression. This volume is the most comprehensive. It is subdivided into five sections dealing with clinical aspects, experimental work, methods of investigation, theories of causation and finally treatment. At the end of the book is a comprehensive bibliography of 15 pages. Much original work is based on the Beck Depression Inventory which is given as an appendix. Symptomatology is described under the three grades of mild, moderate and severe, the latter amounting to less than ten per cent of the whole. The author is fully aware of the ubiquity of these syndromes, which is both encouraging and useful; so much that has been written about depression is based on the mental hospital types which are a very small part of the whole. The basic causes of depression remain a mystery, and although an immense amount of work has been done positive findings such as excessive levels of steroids, sodium retention and changes in the EEG sleep patterns are rare and these are not always confirmed by other workers. Psychoanalytic theories of depression take up more page space than physical theories, although physical treatment remains the sheet anchor of treatment. This book is essential reading for anyone interested in the subject, and research in the future is likely to make use of the Beck Inventory of depressive symptoms or some modification of this very practical tool. Psychometric instruments are all too rare in the wide fields of psychiatric research.

Removable intracranial tumours. LESLIE OLIVER, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S., F.A.C.S. London. William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1969. Pp. 168. Price £2 0s. 0d.

Although there is no preface by the author to this short book, it has obviously been written with the needs of the postgraduate student in mind and undoubtedly the book will be of value to those studying for a higher qualification and for those who propose to make neurosurgery their future career.

The content of the book is interesting but concentrated. The first chapter deals with neurological examination and is almost exclusively devoted to the abnormalities resulting from disorders of the cranial nerves and the causes thereof. Useful clinical tests are described. However, at the end of the chapter, only two paragraphs are devoted to the examination of the peripheral nervous

system. The next subject is that of the special investigations, and in this the methods and techniques of radiography, electroencephalography, echoencephalography, and radioisotope encephalography are described. The chapter continues with details about cerebral angiography including the use of fluorescein, pneumoventriculography, pneumoencephalography and finally diagnostic lumbar puncture. The author stresses the dangers of the latter in the presence of increased intracranial pressure.

That this book caters more for the specialist than the generalist is further emphasized by the remaining chapters. The clinical syndromes which arise from the different tumours are outlined on the basis of their pathology and site. Included in this section of the book is a contribution by Dr Raymond Greene on the endocrinology of pituitary tumours. Finally, operative technique and post-operative complications are discussed by the author and the last chapter, written by Dr Trevor Roberts, is concerned with anaesthesia for the removal of intracranial tumours. At the end of each section there is a useful list of references.

The average general practitioner, during the whole of his working life, will come across very few cases indeed of intracranial tumours, whether removable or not, but nevertheless, as the author stresses, it is important to be aware of the great variety of removable tumours and their early clinical manifestations if treatment is to be successful. This book may be useful for reference, but it is not of direct interest and value to the general practitioner.

Immunization against infectious diseases. Scientific editor, D. G. EVANS. *British Medical Bulletin*, Vol. 25, No. 2. London. Medical Department, The British Council. 1969. Pp. 119-218. Price £2. 0s. 0d.

This is an excellent and readable summary of basic and recent work on immunization against viral, rickettsial, bacterial and protozoal diseases. Opening chapters on world problems in viral vaccines and on the search for protective antigens are followed by 14 concise authoritative articles, written by those directly concerned with studying or standardizing a wide range of vaccines and other immunological products.

Each chapter starts with a short list of various headings into which different articles are subdivided: e.g. natural history, pathogenesis, natural immunity, morbidity and mortality, vaccine production, choice of strain, live attenuated vaccines, killed vaccines, sub-unit vaccines, complications and their prevention, current position and research, etc. Professor Evans, who writes the introduction, and his planning committee are to be congratulated on producing such an interesting and well-presented assembly of information which medical 'students' of all ages will read with profit and, no doubt, pleasure.