

general practitioners would be likely to find the text too elementary. The references and bibliography are very good, and would certainly offer a sound basis for further study.

Certain omissions are surprising. In dealing with the psychology of small groups there is a fair discussion of leadership, but virtually none on group dynamics; in the section on communication, the non-verbal aspects are largely ignored.

Medical readers may find themselves irritated by some of the statements about illness—for example, anxiety states are said to be particularly prevalent in persons who worry a great deal, and gastric and duodenal ulcers to be common in people who suffer from anxiety states.

The difficult task of defining mental health is attempted, but is probably beyond the scope of such an elementary book. It is stated that a mentally healthy person is one who sets himself a socially acceptable goal and successfully works towards it. While this contains the key notion of adaptation, serious criticism of both halves of the proposition could easily be made.

The book may be useful for a general practitioner to recommend to interested patients, but unless he feels unusually insecure in his knowledge of psychology, he will gain little from it himself except a good bibliography.

New editions

A paediatric vade-mecum. Seventh edition. Edited by B. S. B. WOOD, D.M., F.R.C.P. London. Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd. 1970. Pp. xiii+178. Price 25s. (£1.25).

For its small bulk—it really does fit in the pocket—this booklet contains an astonishing amount of detailed information on matters paediatric. The compression required to achieve this means that much of the material is in the form of tables and there is no undue straining after literary style in the text. All major paediatric problems are covered and there are particularly informative sections on normal data, the newborn, paediatric emergencies, accidental poisoning, and a miscellaneous chapter covering, amongst other matters, the indications for electroencephalography and for nuclear sexing.

This work was originally intended for students and housemen at the Birmingham Children's Hospital, and it must, indeed, be an invaluable help to any hospital resident with paediatric responsibilities. Diseases tend to be looked at as

presenting in the hospital milieu, and much of the detail on therapy would be of academic interest to the average general practitioner, unless he had access to hospital paediatric beds. On the other hand, as a work of reference it is rather scanty and the more conventional textbooks would be preferred.

A laboratory guide to clinical diagnosis. Second edition. R. D. EASTHAM, B.A., M.D., D.C.P., DIPL. PATH., F.C. PATH. Bristol. John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1970. Pp. viii+268. Price £1.

That a new edition of this pocket-sized synopsis of the whole range and content of clinical pathology should appear four years after its last re-issue is testimony both to the value of the work and to the advances being made in laboratory medicine. Over eighty new headings have been added, many of them dealing with the specific enzyme deficiencies. Under each disease heading are listed in order of decreasing helpfulness diagnostic and other tests. From Alder's anomaly to Zollinger-Ellison syndrome, the spectrum is wide and remarkably complete. The trouble, from the general practitioner's point of view, is 'first catch your disease'. Perhaps it's not so much a question of needing support for our hypotheses as framing them in the first instance; and having framed them, the repertoire is usually concerned with a small number of relatively familiar entities. If that stage is not reached, or if the hypothesis includes a rarity, most general practitioners will wish to call in consultant help. However, there is likely to be an increasing number of general practitioners having access to hospital beds; for them, and for those who wish to 'work-up' the more baffling problem before calling in the specialist this booklet has something to offer.

Books received

Nosology of psychiatry. Written at the invitation of the Society of Clinical Psychiatrists by JOHN G. HOWELLS, M.D., D.P.M. Ipswich. The Institute of Family Psychiatry. 1970. Pp. 37. Price 3s. 6d. (17½p).

At home with multiple sclerosis. London. The Multiple Sclerosis Society. 1970. Pp. 62. Price 5s. (25p).

Dental health education. World Health Organization Technical Report Series No. 449. Geneva. World Health Organization. 1970. Pp. 28. Price 4s. (20p).