diseases of managers arise roughly above or below C 7 and D 10!—and mostly above C 1.

The papers themselves make good reading on the whole and are not intended as significant contributions to the literature concerning degenerative and stress disorders, which are sometimes said to haunt our managers; those by Dudley White, O'Neil, and Norman probably best serve their purpose.

Sinclair (page 25) makes the somewhat controversial statement that "it is more dangerous to be ten pounds or more over-weight than it is to smoke heavily". This may be so, or may not, but it would be useful to have clarification as to what he means by smoking heavily and what is to be regarded as "over-weight"; standard tables relating height, age, and body weight are hopelessly misleading.

Finally, the uncharitable thought recurs constantly that if our managers were more scientifically selected and trained from youth, they would not need mid-career health education of this sort. Until that happy time this booklet will have to suffice.

OWEN MCGIRR

Rehabilitation of Hand Function. By A. N. Leont'ev and A. V. Zaporozhets. (Pp. 199. 60s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1960.

The theme of this work is indicated by the first sentence of the foreword (by Colonel General of the Medical Service, E. Smirnov): "The main task of Soviet medicine at the present time is the eradication of the consequences of war." Many cases are described of men who were wounded in 1942-44. Presumably they had their rehabilitation long ago and it is difficult to understand why this work should be published in English so long afterwards. The latest reference is dated 1945. A publisher's notice apologizes for the poor quality of production "in the interest of speedily making available the information contained". There may be useful information in this work but it is difficult to find on account of the turgid style and poor typescript. No good service has been rendered to Soviet medicine by the publication of this work.

L. G. NORMAN

Injuries and Infections of the Hand. By R. H. C. Robins. (Pp. 220; 157 figures. 63s.) London: Edward Arnold. 1961.

This book adds another page to the better understanding of the hand and the modern development of treatment and rehabilitation. A brief reference to surgical anatomy precedes a review of general principles and due emphasis is laid on sound primary wound toilet. Prophylactic antibiotics are advisedly not recommended in all cases.

The importance of an early accurate assessment is stressed and the repair should be related to the patient's need to return to his pre-accident work.

Operative technique emphasizes the delicate handling of tissues and the use of fine instruments necessary to reduce the incidence of operative trauma and the limiting factor of fibrosis.

The chapter on infections deals with the more common conditions and their treatment. The author favours general anaesthesia, although local anaesthesia can be safely used for distal infections. Bed rest is ideal, but unfortunately accommodation in hospital is not always available for all hand infections. Tuberculosis of the hand is fully discussed. Accepted methods in the treatment of fractures and dislocations are well described.

The primary treatment of open injuries and skin cover by grafting is given well-deserved emphasis and the author has done a service in presenting so clearly the need to regard good skin cover as top priority in treatment.

This book is well illustrated and easily read, and reviews, in relatively few pages, the modern treatment of the hand, particularly in regard to injury.

It can be read with benefit by surgeons and house surgeons.

STEWART HARRISON

The Practical Management of Head Injuries. By John M. Potter. (Pp. xii + 84. 12s.) London: Lloyd-Luke. 1961.

This small book is one of those rare gems of common sense which cannot fail to absorb the interest of those who read it. It will prove of particular benefit to senior medical students, senior nurses, house surgeons, and especially to those often overworked young men who for the most part run our casualty departments. But no doctor who has to do with head injuries at any stage will regret the hour or two spent in reading through this little work.

The book is set out in orderly sequence of management: the casualty department, the ward, complications, convalescence, and rehabilitation, ending with three short appendices. At each stage the observations necessary and the practical steps to be taken are stated, and the reasons why they are important made quite clear. Esoteric descriptions of pathology and neurology in head injuries have been avoided, but the warning signs of impending serious complication are lucidly explained and the action required indicated with clarity.

Of especial interest to readers of this journal is the short final chapter on convalescence, rehabilitation, and sequelae. Here all the salient problems of after care in relation to occupation are discussed with masterly economy of words.

There is very little to criticize. The *early* establishment of a clear airway in the unconscious patient could perhaps be better emphasized. Some reference to brain stem compression at the tentorium, and to the reasons why lumbar puncture can be dangerous would perhaps have been useful elaborations.

Mr. Potter's style is everywhere most readable and concise. Among his acknowledgements he notes his affection for the work of Percival Pott, and running through the pages of this book there is discernible the same practical good sense that characterizes the writings of that great surgeon.

B. J. HARRIES