This well-known book of Miss Tidy's, which is intended for senior students and recently qualified physiotherapists, has been revised by Mrs. J. O. Wale, formerly physiotherapist in charge of the neurological section of St. Thomas's Hospital.

In contradistinction to its title, it describes not only physical treatment but also the anatomy, the pathology, and the medical and surgical treatment of almost every condition likely to be encountered by a physiotherapist.

The book outlines in detail all injuries and diseases of the skeletal and locomotor systems, and the section on neurological conditions is excellent. General medical conditions, classwork, and the problems of treating children and the aged are dealt with adequately.

The general layout of the book with small typescript gives the impression of crowding and is difficult to read even though frequently broken up by sub-headings. As pointed out by the editor, controversy has been avoided. This is perhaps inevitable in a textbook of this nature, but because of it the book is rather dry reading.

In spite of these criticisms this is a very useful book with a good reference system and it would be an asset to any physiotherapist's library.

J. R. BURROWS

L'Elettroencefalogramma in Medicina del Lavoro. By Carlo Serra and Luigi Ambrosio. (Pp. 320; 101 figures. L.6.000.) Naples: Acta Neurologica. 1961.

Carlo Serra and Luigi Ambrosio have written a most useful book on their studies of electroencephalograms made both in animal and human experiments. They wished, in particular, to study the effects of certain industrial poisons and hazards on the tracings.

In their first chapters they describe the effects of metabolic imbalance, of noise, and of overbreathing on the normal E.E.G. Later they deal with the effects of alcoholic excess, including accidental poisoning in industries using this material. Some of the effects of arsenic, of the halogens, of cyanide, mercury, and manganese are of great interest.

Poisoning with carbon monoxide provides interesting material for study, and the effects of cerebral lesions from this cause, illustrated by enlargements of microscope sections, may be correlated to some extent with the E.E.G. changes observed. Indeed, in certain cases of suspected poisoning of industrial origin, it may be only with E.E.G. evidence that one can assess the full extent of any damage suffered.

Clearly some of the changes are reversible, but if a subject has once clinically suffered effects from any poison, it may be found that further effects can be detected more easily, as in the case of carbon bisulphide poisoning described here, if this aid to diagnosis is available.

In recent years many new insecticides have been brought into use and, as is now better appreciated, some of them are extremely poisonous. A case of DDT poisoning is noted in which the electrical activity was slowed and a previously dominant frequency could no longer be seen. There were paroxysmal changes during hyperventilation deriving from the temporo-central area.

Eight months later this zone was still somewhat abnormal in its excitability.

Methyl bromide was found to be widespread in its effects on the brain and with no special point of attack.

Noxious physical agents were also studied, both mechanical injury and the effects of electric shock. Even after recovery from the immediate effects the E.E.G. may give useful information about residual damage which may be difficult or impossible to detect by the usual clinical methods.

Similar considerations apply to head injury of physical origin, and in some cases the apparent development of diabetes after accident, perhaps used as a basis for a compensation claim, may be better assessed with the help of E.E.G. evidence.

This book is illustrated with many excellent figures and diagrams.

G. C. PETHER

Toxicity of Beryllium Compounds. By Lloyd B. Tepper, Harriet L. Hardy, and Richard I. Chamberlin. (Pp. viii + 190; 10 figures + 12 tables. 20s.) Amsterdam: Elsevier; London: Van Nostrand. 1961.

In 1949 beryllium ceased to be included in the phosphors which coat the inside of fluorescent lamp tubes. This year, in 1962, Imperial Chemical Industries announce the closure of their one-and-a-half million pound beryllium plant, since the metal has been found to be too brittle when it cools from relatively high temperatures to make satisfactory fuel cans for the Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor. The first of these decisions turned upon a point of health, the second upon metallurgy. Both of them represent two fundamental steps in the prevention of beryllium disease.

The toxicity of this metal and its compounds is fully described in this Elsevier Monograph which comes by General Hospital out of Institute of Technology, both from the world famous stable of Massachusetts. Here is seen the best kind of co-operation between two doctors and an industrial hygiene engineer, members of the staff of the Department of Medicine and of the local Occupational Medical Service.

The monograph, which will fit easily into the pocket, describes the terminology, history, epidemiology, and the acute and chronic forms of beryllium disease. The x-ray changes, pathology, and pulmonary function are then discussed. The final chapters deal with the beryllium patch test, the experimental toxicology, the route of the metal in the body, and the industrial hygiene aspects. There is a list of 297 references and an index.

A few positive, but at the same time tentative, suggestions for making the style go more easily to the reader may perhaps be made.

This pocket book is packed with information, broken up into a slightly staccato style by the continuous interjection of quoted references, together with many case studies. A continuous narrative, with grouped references under headings at the end of each chapter, might be smoother, combined perhaps with a simple summary of what has gone before.