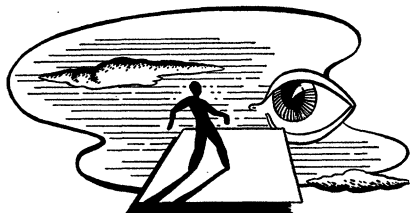


attention directed at the formerly designated "tropical diseases," and to the effects of various forms of radiation upon tissues. Also treated comprehensively are the diseases of the skin, special sense organs, lips, mouth, teeth, and skeletal system. A surprising omission is a chapter on diseases of muscles. This is especially disappointing since a growing interest in this subject is increasing the number of muscle biopsies to be diagnosed by pathologists.

As a textbook, this book will create by its bulk a real problem for medical students who are expected to assimilate it in the usual one-semester course. As a reference book, it can be recommended unreservedly to all who are interested in the problems of disease.

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*Psychiatry in general practice.* Melvin W. Thorner.  
Philadelphia-London: W. B. Saunders, 1948. Pp.  
xi + 659. \$8.00.

The author of this book has attempted to present psychiatry in a language relatively free of confusing terminology, and yet he manages to cover the theories and concepts that are generally accepted today.

The book is divided into two main parts, which are designated as "The People" and "The Methods." In the first part the chapters are named by the principal problem or mental symptom, e.g., "Intelligent People," "Dull People," "People and Sex," "People and Catastrophe," "Unhappy People," "Dreamy People," "Confused People," "Anxious People." One might raise the objection that such titles detract from the dignity of the book. Each chapter has a short informative introduction to the topic, complete illustrative life histories of patients, and an excellent summary. The author hopes to give the student or physician the "feel" of the psychiatric patient and his use of many well-selected case records and brief interpretations of the patients' behavior does much to accomplish this purpose.

Treatment is the theme of the second part of the book. There are good chapters on interviewing, sedation, and psychotherapy. The limitations of such procedures as electroshock therapy and prefrontal lobotomy are discussed. The information about the related shock therapies is concise but adequate to enable the physician to discuss with the family the nature of a treatment that may have been recommended by a psychiatrist or hospital.

This book offers much help to the general practitioner in understanding and treating many of his patients. It is recommended.

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*The aviation psychology program in the Army Air Forces.* (Rep. No. 1.) John C. Flanagan. (Ed.) Washington, D. C.: Supt. of Documents, U. S. Govt. Printing Office, 1948. Pp. xii + 316. \$2.00.

This is the first of a series of 19 volumes designed to record, evaluate, and make available the major research findings and experience of the AAF Psychology Program during the period of World War II. In this volume, Col. Flanagan, who directed the program under the Air Surgeon, Major General David N. W. Grant, and the chief of the Medical Research Division, Col. Loyd E. Griffis, reviews the research findings and discusses their implications. The book is both an introduction and a summary of the series; the titles and editing authors of all 18 volumes of the series are listed on pages 3 and 4. So much credit is given to his military and civilian associates that Col. Flanagan's own outstanding contributions as director and research leader of the program are not immediately evident. The volume is arranged in three parts: I. Background and development of the Aviation Psychology Program; II. Specific solutions of problems; and III. General contributions.

Building on the experience of World War I and on some work accomplished by civilians through the National Research Council and the Civil Aeronautics Administration in 1939 and 1940, the Army program took shape. It was decided to organize a coordinated research program rather than a strongly centralized agency, and to place the work in intimate association with the AAF training fields. Twenty categories were identified by analyzing the reasons for eliminating men from primary flight training. These were grouped into four principal areas for assigning responsibility for test development: (1) tests of information, judgment, and intellectual ability, (2) tests of alertness, observation, and speed of perception, (3) tests of coordination and visual-motor skill, and (4) tests of personality, temperament, and interest. Previous efforts had centered chiefly on selection of pilots. The AAF program envisaged a broader need, that is, the selection and classification of all air-crew.

There are five fundamental steps that psychologists use in aptitude testing and personnel selection: I. *Job analysis* of positions for which applicants are to be selected; II. *Test construction* in line with the job analysis by adapting previously used tests or in making up new ones; III. *Test reliability determination* through giving alternate forms to sample populations and noting degree of score agreement; IV. *Rehearsal administration* of proposed tests to training groups otherwise selected for discovering the relation of test scores to success and failure in training; and V. *Validation appraisal* through selecting men for training by the tests developed; then after training or other exhibits of compe-