ments with tables in the text. These tables are amplified by much statistical data in numerous appendices at the end of the book. There is only one error where a table on page 71 has been misplaced and should occur on the next page.

The final chapter is a succinct summary of their findings and recommendations. The census by the team of over 3,600 patients showed that about 30 per cent occupied acute beds for medicine, surgery, orthopaedics and gynaecology in Scotland. Of this 30 per cent quite a large group now retained in 'acute' wards did not require the level of medical and nursing attention normally associated with these units. Their recommendations were twofold, the first being the case for the design and building of special 100-bed units supporting the acute wards and the second being the type of follow-up that should be done as a result of the survey. Indeed the authors describe in some detail with costing, the plans, equipment and nursing staff for such a supporting unit of 100 beds. One obvious omission is that they have not attempted to make any suggestion on the more controversial subject of the medical staffing of such units by doctors. For the work to be done in the follow-up, they suggest more dynamic hospital planning for the care of the elderly and closer links between hospital and general practice.

Although this book is primarily written for hospital planners, it is of indirect interest to the general practitioner who must be aware and have an informed opinion regarding the broad principles of future hospital planning as it affects his work in the community and his patients. The implications from this report are obvious in the attempt to conserve greater numbers of skilled nurses for use in the intensive care units with a lesser density of staffing in the supporting units. A further implication could be that in minimal care units the general practitioner, who is interested in having a part-time role in the hospital service, may find a useful function and place.

**Working together.** Published by King Edward's Hospital Fund for London. 1968. Pp. 76. Price 8s. 0d.

It is fashionable to blame most of the failings of the National Health Service on its tripartite organization, and to imagine that new legislation would of itself produce a Utopian service. In fact, co-ordination of the medical services must depend on co-operation between workers in all sections of the service whether the Act is changed or not.

The King Edward's Hospital Fund carried out an enquiry to discover how much is already being done by regional hospital boards, local authorities and executive councils to enable the three branches of the health service to work together. This booklet describes the results of this enquiry, and shows that many successful examples of co-operation are already being carried out, and that further experiments are being conducted. The authors do not claim that the list of experiments is comprehensive, but they have produced a very stimulating booklet and a valuable bibliography.


It is a pleasure to review this book. It is dedicated to the memory of Dr Milton Davies, "a country practitioner in Pembrokeshire for half a century, to whom the art of clinical observation was a source of constant delight". The 800 clinical photographs with their brief, but always lucid, legends, bring to life the many common and also the less common neurological illnesses that we have seen as students, and over the years meet again in our practice. The beautiful
production of the book makes it easy to read, and there is a splendid introductory section that deals with the evolution of clinical neurology from its very first written text dating from BC 3000, in which the term “brain” was coined by ancient Egyptian physicians, to the latest clinical series and syndromes of disease. Anyone reading this book would wish it had been possible to hear in person at least some of these lectures illustrated by the dynamic slides from which this atlas of carefully annotated illustrations has been harvested. The publisher and the author can be congratulated on a work that will make this generation see a fresh interest in the problem of many acute and chronic illnesses, which are here so vividly portrayed.

Dr Spillane reminds us that “the human visual cortex is larger than the auditory and the processes of learning and memory are predominantly visual”. To sit and turn the pages of this book is to bring before one’s eyes unforgettable portraits of every type of nervous disease, functional and organic, acquired and inherited, always with a discreet commentary that itself is worthy of very high praise.

Your reviewer believes that no more important and attractive book on neurology has yet been published. Dr Spillane leads us gently over the regional aspects of neurology with sections on the head and neck, the limbs, and the muscles. There is a section on disorders characterized by involuntary movements. He deals fully with specific disease groups including neurosyphilis and endocrine disorders. There is a brilliant section on hysteria, and perhaps most impressive of all is a salutary section on iatrogenic neurological disorders, which here, as in all fields of contemporary medicine, occupies an increasingly formidable position.

The author, a student of Henry Thoreau, will recall this phrase from Thoreau’s journal of 1852: “Otherwise we may be cured into greater disease”. Everyone in practice today would be the better for reading and dwelling upon the vivid illustrations, diagrams, and their accompanying explanatory texts showing the neurological side effects of drug therapy, of modern neurosurgical techniques, and of therapy by deep x-rays. This is a book to read and, if possible, to buy. It will be treasured throughout the years of practice, and constantly consulted.


The subjects described in this book are patent ductus arteriosus, coarctation of the aorta, atrial septal defect, ventricular septal defect, Fallot’s tetralogy, and pulmonary stenosis with intact ventricular septum. It is essentially a surgical book; nearly half the text and many of the illustrations are of purely surgical interest. Nevertheless, in the management of these cases, the surgeon carries the final responsibility and quite reasonably needs convincing evidence that his efforts will be worth while. For this reason, the assessment of these cases is more clearly and critically stated than in most books on cardiology, and this increases its value to the physician or general practitioner who would find it a valuable companion volume to other books on cardiology. The fact that it is surgical also means that the emphasis on embryology, anatomy and haemodynamics is different from that of medical books. Lucidly written by eminent authors this is a book which may be read with profit by anyone interested in cardiology.