

## Book Reviews

### **Cortisone Therapy: Mainly applied to the Rheumatic Diseases.**

J. H. GLYN, M.A. (CANTAB.), M.D., M.R.C.P., D.PHYS.MED.;  
Foreword by LORD COHEN OF BIRKENHEAD. Lond. William  
Heinemann, Medical Books, Ltd. 1957. Pp. x + 162. Price  
21s.

The introduction of cortisone and hydrocortisone in September 1948 will possibly have as great and more far reaching an influence on medical practice than the introduction of the National Health Service in the same year. The place of cortisone in medical therapy is not yet fully understood. An authoritative handbook has been overdue for some time and the volume under review fulfils a much felt want. General practitioners and others will find much of interest. The section which deals with the subject of intra-articular injections is especially welcome. It is a pity that a work showing so great a knowledge of the subject should have been written in a curious mixture of short notes and fulsome turgescence. Nevertheless, as a work for handy reference it is thoroughly to be recommended.

### **Aids to Anaesthesia** by V. GOLDMAN (4th edition) (Bailliere, Tindall and Cox), pp. vii and 347; figs. 92. Price 10/6.

This is the fourth edition of a successful member of the "Aids" series. It does not pretend to be a comprehensive textbook, and is suitable as an outline of the subject only, for those approaching it for the first time.

The chapter on dental anaesthesia is full of sound principle (provided that the underlying belief that nitrous oxide anaesthesia involves some degree of anoxia is conceded) and practical detail, and can be read with profit by any practitioner who does not find dental patients reasonably easy. There is also a helpful chapter on spinal analgesia, though not every anaesthetist would agree that six hours must pass before the danger of a hypobaric solution moving upwards is over.

The basic principles of anaesthesia are sometimes sketchily done, the brief mention of the anatomy and physiology of the lungs and of respiration contrasts with a better treatment of the subarachnoid space and spinal canal. Minor errors such as missing type or numbers, and one or two ambiguous sentences, could have been avoided by more scrupulous proof-reading. But the book professes only to be an "Aid", and though its quality is patchy, it serves its intention well as a "concise guide to essentials". The binding and production are uniform with the rest of the "Aid" series.