

Refresher Course for General Practitioners. Third Collection.
Various authors. London. British Medical Association, 1956,
pp. xvii + 539. Price 25s.

This volume contains sixty articles published in the *British Medical Journal* in 1952 and 1953. They were revised in 1956. The subjects are varied, ranging from "Mental Deficiency" to "Intermittent Claudication." Each is written by an authority on the subject.

The subject matter of most articles will be known to the reader although the articles on "Resuscitation after Drowning" and "The Medical Aspects of Air Travel" contain much that is new. The former article gives a concise account of the Holger-Nielsen method of artificial respiration, which may not be generally known, and draws attention to numerous smaller points which tend to be neglected. Many practitioners must be asked questions by prospective air travellers and this should answer them all.

The only criticisms of the book are explained by the restricted length of the articles and by the speed of recent advances in medicine. An excellent summary of "Psychiatric Treatment and the Law" would be even better with a section on the provisions for the care of the property of patients who have no close relations or friends to care for it. In the treatment of barbiturate poisoning only passing reference is made to bemegrade and amiphenazole.

This is a book to be recommended. Those with time to browse through it can compare their ideas on such everyday topics as "Antenatal Care" or "Gall Bladder Disease" with present-day opinion. Articles on "Interpretation of Wounds" and other less common problems make it a useful reference book.

This volume also contains a classified list of the contents of the two previous volumes in this series.

A Handbook on Diseases of Children. Including Dietetics and the Common Fevers. BRUCE WILLIAMSON, M.D. (EDIN.), F.R.C.P. (LOND.). Eighth Edition. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., Edinburgh and London, pp. xii and 483. Illustrated. Price 27s. 6d.

To many this remarkable handbook will be an old and trusted friend, for it was first published in 1933 and has remained in print ever since; they can be assured that the eighth edition has been thoroughly revised yet still bears the freshness and vivacity of the earlier ones. Those who have yet to make its acquaintance and who require a concise, practical and well illustrated guide to paediatrics cannot do better than purchase this book.

The volume is well suited for use by general practitioners because of its clarity in arrangement so that any subject covered can be found without undue waste of time, and because the author has