

for undirected research performed by gifted investigators who are free to follow where nature beckons, unconfined by categories". Individual workers in general practice will be heartened by the accounts given here of the patients who have so nobly contributed to the advance of medical knowledge. For those who are aware what questions to ask, an unusual case may present the answer to a problem.

The price of many books published in the United States is unfortunately high, but this is a book which many will enjoy reading, and they should endeavour to do so.

Human Parturition BY NORMAN F. MILLER, M.D., T. N. EVANS, M.D. and R. L. HAAS, M.D. London. Bailliere, Tindall and Cox. 1958. pp. 248. Illustrated. Price 60s. 0d.

The preface of this slim book from the Department of Obstetrics at the University of Michigan, states that the volume is intended for undergraduates but may be a convenient guide to the practitioner.

The first section is devoted to normal labour with especial accent on mechanisms, whilst the remainder is concerned with the types of abnormal labour. The latter section is very much better than the former but there appears to be room for disagreement with the advice given on management.

Each chapter is heavily subdivided into lists of causes, findings, and treatments, which may be of some use for reference or revision. Antenatal care is not covered in this book in any detail.

The print and layout are good, with a large series of line drawings. For a book of only occasional use to the general practitioner, the price would seem to be rather high.

Orthopaedics in General Practice: Is it rheumatism, doctor? BY W. H. GERVIS, M.A., M.B., B.CH., (CANTAB.), F.R.C.S. London: William Heinemann, Medical Books Ltd., 1958. pp. x + 120. Illustrated. Price 10s. 6d.

Rheumatism BY OSWOLD SAVAGE, O.B.E., F.R.C.P. A family doctor booklet. London. British Medical Association pp. 32. Price 1s. 0d.

The treatment of the limbs and joints, of the back, the neck and the head occupy the greater part of the general practitioner's working day. The first of the two little books under review is concerned with teaching the family doctor how much he can do to help his patient in those minor troubles which are often so difficult to resolve. And most successful it is. Mr Gervis who was a general practitioner before passing to full time orthopaedics understands well the kind of case which an understanding doctor can well treat himself. The thesis which runs through the book is the correction of faulty

posture. His ideas are sound; an understanding of them will not only save doctors' time but also they will find that they need to refer fewer of their patients for radiological and orthopaedic examination.

The second booklet is intended for the patient. It is an endeavour to give the patient some idea of what "rheumatism" is, and it contains a great deal of interesting information. Whether it succeeds in its object is difficult to say. To the patient with established disease it may bring comfort, but those whose disability is of a minor degree may be frightened by the rather ponderous description of the various diseases in the group. Simple remedial procedures such as those described by Mr Gervis are scarcely mentioned by Dr Savage. This is a pity.

An Introduction to Psychopathology. D. RUSSELL DAVIS, M.D., M.R.C.P. London, Oxford University Press (1957), pp. vi + 388. Price 30s.

Few will now deny that the practitioner who concerns himself solely with physical illness is only half a doctor. Most of us, with a sketchy education in psychology, need to do some reading around the subject if we are to play our part in the treatment of our psycho-neurotic patients.

Dr Davis has set out to "build a bridge between the psychiatric clinic and the psychological laboratory". He is well qualified, as teacher, research worker, and physician, for the task. He favours chiefly the external factors predisposing to and precipitating mental illness, and discusses these with reference to the findings of experimental psychology. A great deal of interesting material is brought together and examined in a most instructive way.

Dr Davis is sparing with technicalities, but unfortunately the book is written in a ponderous style that does not do justice to the contents. The subject is abstract, the language need not have been.

This book will fill a gap on the shelves, and many gaps in the minds of those who wish to think more deeply about what they see every day.

First Aid. The authorized manual of the St. John Ambulance Association, the St. Andrew's Ambulance Association, and the British Red Cross Society. First Edition, 1958. Price 4s.

This manual has been published by the three organizations and represents the latest advice on the management of casualties before a doctor takes charge. It is notably helpful in all likely circumstances,