

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 psychoneurotic 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,

and includes a section on modern warfare and the additional hazards involved. The manual has been brought up to date on subjects which are better understood in recent years, the 113 figures are clear and instructive, and the descriptive matter well written. The layout is systematic and orderly.

A few minor criticisms can be made. On the problem of fluids by mouth in cases of shock, it seems to leave the first-aid to decide whether or not a casualty is to receive a general anaesthetic. The three-quarter prone position is described and illustrated without it being made clear that the casualty must not lie heavily on his lower arm and direct inflation as a method of artificial respiration has been neglected.

But it is a great advance to see the use of friction and heat abandoned when treating shock, coupled with the advice, "Hot water bottles should not be used," and there are many other improvements.

Those who undertake the task of lecturing to first aid classes will no longer have to say, "Learn what the book says for your certificate test, but remember what I say if you ever have to treat a case." The manual should be owned and understood by everyone who may be called upon to render first aid—which means virtually every able-bodied youth and adult.

The Medical Practitioners' Handbook. British Medical Association. London. Revised edition 1958. pp. 285. Price 12s. 6d.—10s. 0d. to members of the B.M.A.

The original edition of this book was designed for the guidance of the newly qualified doctor. More experienced practitioners found it equally of use.

The greater part of the book is devoted to aspects of general practice. An initial section covers the ethics of practice in a detailed manner. The remainder of the twelve sections cover such diverse topics as partnership agreements, the financial background to practice, postgraduate education and the relationship between the practitioner and the law. Sundry topics not covered in these sections are neatly described in a question and answer section.

There are appendices made up of lists of addresses and other strictly factual material that cannot find a place in the main portion of the book.

This handbook is excellent value and will certainly be used time and time again if it finds a place on the practitioner's desk.
