

there is an admirable exposition of the doctor's relationship with the law, and the forensic activities which at some time or another may fall to the lot of the doctor in practice. In considering the future of practice and the correction of public misconceptions as to status of doctor in and outside hospital, the author advocates practitioner teaching through university departments of practice and outlines a scheme which accords well with the policy of our College.

This review must include one serious criticism of both publishers who have encased good typography and layout in utterly inadequate bindings. The glossy paperback covers, one with advertising matter on the back outer face, are flimsy and uncomfortable in the hand. One review copy arrived with the cover detached from the spine along its whole length requiring immediate amateur repair with adhesives. Such presentation as this does justice neither to the work of the authors nor the reputation of the publishers.

**Health Services Administration.** Edited by R. J. PETERS, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., and J. KINNAIRD, M.A., B.L., C.A., F.H.A. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1965. Pages xv + 500. Price 42s.

In Britain today the population is increasing faster than the availability of family doctors, so N.H.S. lists lengthen at a time when medicine can do so much more in maintenance and the public expects more. Handling the ageing and their morbidity demands more time and effort from overstrained resources while the pressure on hospital facilities in recent years for medical and surgical care of the aged has more than doubled. And there is a continuing cry for more staff, of all grades and skills, to work in the field of medical care.

Against this background this book is timely. Produced as a source book containing general information and a wide range of references on subjects studied by postgraduates taking the medical services administration course at Edinburgh University, Dr Peters and his collaborators scrutinize over a wide range the administrative function in the provision of health services. This is considered from important social, psychological, economic and technical aspects among others, an approach especially useful because the amount of knowledge and skill available, outside medicine, for modern comprehensive medical care is already considerable and is constantly increasing.

By contrast there is little reference to general practice. On page 269 it is stated that before the introduction of the National Health Service there was in domiciliary medical care a well established general practice service covering the country: the point is well made that each practitioner was his own master, there was no organization in this service. And the authors' comment of 1965, it is not greatly different today. With this opinion your reviewer must agree.

The only effective organization for general practice that can be discerned exists for paying the doctor and for investigating complaints. The com-

parison between high grade administration of the hospital and public health sectors and the absence of any administration directed towards producing high grade general practice is clear and disturbing; discussing needed improvements, defined in the Gillie Report (1963), the authors comment:

The question is how far all these improvements can be brought about without introducing more organization into general practice, and how would such a suggestion be received by the doctors.

Present pressures on providing quality care, exerted by the community, will cause all of us to rethink our traditional roles and patterns of work to enable oncoming demand to be matched to our available resources; and need, as yet undetermined or unexpressed, is an added force to bring organization and administration of general practice into line with that of other parts of the health services.

The clear type and good quality paper aid considerably in appreciating the logic presented by Dr Peters and his collaborators. This book will not only be a source book in wide demand by those taking the postgraduate course but will be of equal value to all engaged in rethinking the future role and future effectiveness of general practice as an integral part of medical care.

**The Family and Individual Development.** D. W. WINNICOTT, F.R.C.P.  
London. Tavistock Publications. 1965. Pp. viii+181. Price 30s.

It is a testimony to the influence of Dr Winnicott's publications over the years that this should offer what many of us search for as reading background to our work as general practitioners. The book is a compilation of papers addressed to social and professional workers and aims at a wide reading public. This is an advantage especially for those of us who were young in the era when psychiatry and paediatrics were very wide apart.

The first and larger part is concerned with the sequence of changes in the relationship of the child to his family and essentially to his parents. The author begins with total dependence of a newborn infant on his mother, who herself is more dependent upon others immediately after childbirth than at any other phase of her adult life. His description of the natural alteration from this total dependence of the child through the early months is a beautiful piece of writing. The infant's "innate tendency towards development" conflicts with his desire for absolute safety and control of the means, always in the framework of his mother's gradual separation from him in her "wish to free herself from the bondage of motherhood", yet within the atmosphere of parental and reciprocated love. Dr Winnicott emphasizes that the delicacy of gradual change in the relationship in early life can be left to the infant, the mother, and the father under normal circumstances; that interference is rarely needed, and can be dangerous without knowledge of the bonds involved.

The development of this theme from the mother-infant coupling through the gradual integration of the child's growth as an independent character