

but rarely adequately discussed, as the absence of pain in coronary occlusion makes spicy reading.

Her cautious discussion of what is normal must find the general practitioner's approval. When reading her chapters and paragraphs on Rheumatic Disease, one was wondering whether this picture will be finally changed when the present generation of children are geriatric patients, having had the benefit of chemotherapy and antibiotic treatment for the frequent sore throat. I hazard a guess that the pathologist will be describing the same lessons but under another name. Unfortunately I shall never know. An excellent, thought-provoking book.

A history of the acute abdomen. SIR ZACHARY COPE, B.A., M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S. London, New York, Toronto. Oxford University Press. 1965. Pp. viii + 123. Price 35s.

Sir Zachary has made the "acute abdomen" his speciality and his textbook on it is a classic—his acute abdomen in verse is a *joie de vivre* which has given pleasure as well as instruction to many students. Sir Zachary who has published many books and papers on medical historical subjects, has now combined his two favourite subjects in producing a clear concise history of the acute abdomen. The relative modernity of abdominal surgery will come as a surprise to many. The decades 1880–1900 may be taken as the period during which nearly all the operative procedures on the acute abdomen became established. Sir Zachary omits to mention Treves' historic operation on King Edward VII and the effect it had on the acceptance of the operation by the *bon-ton*, but may be this was more of a crowd phenomenon of more interest to psychiatrists and sociologists than to surgeons, though surely they benefited by the increased 'practice' they had in opening the abdomen.

A most interesting book.

The medical annual 1965. 83rd Edition. Edited by SIR RONALD BODLEY SCOTT, K.C.V.O., M.A., D.M., R.R.C.P., and R. MILNES WALKER, C.B.E., M.S., F.R.C.S. Bristol. John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1965. Pp. 588. Price 50s.

For the first time, in this, the eighty-third issue, general practice receives a special article. That this should have been contributed by Dr John Hunt with the collaboration of Dr Michael Linnett is right and proper. This article is a good summary of the functions and training of the general practitioner. We are promised a section on general practice in succeeding issues.

The high standard of editorship and production is maintained and this is still the best annual of medical progress for easy reference.