

methods, and indicates that there is scope for work on selected groups of those at greater risk. Certainly these groups should be identified in practice and, this done, we should consider the purchase of new ophthalmoscopes.

**The role of obstetricians in maternal and child health programmes.** Report of a symposium. World Health Organization. 1964. Copenhagen. W.H.O. Regional Office for Europe. Pp. 81.

This is a report of a seven-day symposium held at Copenhagen in October 1964 which was attended by representatives from most European countries. The meeting was an informal round-table conference and the 19 participants included obstetricians, paediatricians and Public Health administrators.

The conference concluded that there should be close co-operation between the paediatrician and the obstetrician who should also be a gynaecologist, including preconceptional consultation in some circumstances. Changes in obstetric and paediatric teaching to give medical students, midwives and nurses learning experience in the community as well as in hospital were suggested.

Standard definitions of causes of mortality and morbidity should be adopted in all countries and comprehensive surveys which disclose these causes are required. It was thought that fully equipped maternity units in association with large general hospitals should replace small isolated hospitals where a full range of modern services is not readily available. Emphasis was given to the need to select 'high risk' patients for special care, and the need to introduce health education into the training of the child from its earliest years.

Thirtyeight references to the subjects under discussion are given, together with a series of suggested definitions.

**Current diagnosis and treatment.** Fifth edition. HENRY BRAINERD, M.D., SHELDON MARGEN, M.D., MILTON J. CHATTEN, M.D., and Associate Authors. Los Altos, California. Lange Medical Publications. Oxford. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1966. Pp. 916. Price 72s.

The 1965 edition which was also the first edition of this year book was reviewed in the January 1966 number of the *Journal*. Future year books will be published in January of each year. Essentially, it is a book for reference to current diagnostic techniques and treatment; or for rapid revision of disease states. The notes are short and precise and perhaps a little dogmatic. There seems to be a greater emphasis on laboratory investigations, x-rays etc., than one finds on this side of the Atlantic. Drugs are listed under approved names as well as their proprietary names which greatly helps to eliminate some of the difficulties in using textbooks from another country. On the whole a good book for the price and inasmuch as there is no similar type of book produced in Britain, it would be a useful acquisition.