

Novak's textbook of gynaecology. Seventh edition. E. R. NOVAK, A.B., M.D., G. S. JONES, A.B., M.D., and H. W. JONES, JR., A.B., M.D. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone, Ltd. 1965. Pp. ix+736. Price £6. 8s.

This is the seventh edition of Novak's *Gynaecology*, the first having been published in 1941 and the sixth in 1961. With this new edition there is a new co-author, Dr Howard Jones, who brings the total up to three. The aim of the authors is to "provide the medical student with a thorough text . . . together with an extensive bibliography for those . . . with a particular interest in any certain facet." The text does, in fact, contain a vast amount of detail, more than enough for the qualifying examination. The general layout of the book remains as in previous editions. Each chapter deals with a separate subject and is more or less complete in itself. Where indicated cross references to other chapters are given, and at the end of each chapter the relevant bibliography is listed. This textbook is very nicely produced, in double columns. There are many photographs of pathological specimens, some in colour, together with diagrams, x-ray plates, and tables of statistics. The histological photographs are of a high standard, and prove a great help to the reader throughout the book.

This is an excellent book, containing a wealth of information which is well presented. It is more the book for the intending specialist than for the average student. It will also be of value to the general practitioner with a special interest in gynaecology.

Compendium of emergencies. Second edition. Edited by H. GARDINER-HILL, M.D., F.R.C.P. London. Butterworths. 1965. Pp. xiii+374. Price 60s.

This handy compendium has achieved a second edition after three years. New chapters on Air, Sea and Underwater Hazards, the Emergency Treatment of Burns and Scalds and on the Hazards of Medical Procedures make this work even more comprehensive than before. Not only a good reference book in an emergency but a pleasure to read.

L-Forms, episomes and auto-immune disease. PHYLLIS EVELYN PEASE, Ph.D. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1965. Pp. vii+83. Price 10s. 6d.

The purpose of this essay is to offer an explanation of the cause of certain diseases, including rheumatic, nephritic and haemolytic disorders, the lesions of which are produced by immune reactions. The author brings together many lines of thought into a composite hypothesis, marshalling her arguments with a clarity of writing which makes pleasantly easy reading. This is a book that any family doctor who is interested in the relationship between chronic infection and the breakdown of health might profitably buy. He will wish to read it more than once, as he sees patients newly affected or perceives fresh aspects of established cases.