

Clinical venereology. BENJAMIN SCHWARTZ, M.D., D.P.H. Oxford. Pergamon Press. 1961. Pp. viii + 135. Price 15s.

The recrudescence of venereal diseases in the last ten years or so has lead to increasing interest in the subject and to new books. This one is stated to be "for nurses and students", and the attention of nurses is directed to the summaries at the end of each chapter which "provide sufficient material for examination purposes".

The subject matter is condensed yet readable and the summaries are good. The omission of micro-photographs of smears from *Trichomonas vaginalis* and *Candida albicans* infections is important from the point of view of nurses and students. They could well replace one of the photographs of papular secondary syphilide which show up poorly in black and white reproduction.

A suggestion for the printers is that the sub-headings of the summaries should be in less prominent print than the main ones. The only means of differentiation is that the sub-headings are placed two places to the right and this is not at all obvious. Statements of importance to the writer, where one imagines him underlining his script, are in lighter print than the main text and suggests that the reader might skip an unimportant passage. It would seem more in keeping with the writer's desire to make such passages stand out by underlining them or printing them in larger or darker print.

Obstetrics. Eleventh edition. Ten teachers under the direction of STANLEY G. CLAYTON, M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. Edited by STANLEY G. CLAYTON, DONALD FRASER and T. L. T. LEWIS. London. Edward Arnold Ltd. 1966. Pp. viii + 744. Price 65s.

With the publication of the eleventh edition of this well-known textbook the editors have taken the unusual step of changing its name, that is, from Midwifery to Obstetrics. The editors feel that the new title "is more in keeping with current usage" and it certainly reflects the changes that have taken place since the book was first published in 1917. The new edition has been produced, as in the past, by ten leading teachers. However, several of the old guard have retired, and no less than six new faces have appeared on the panel. The text has been revised throughout in order to bring the book up to date. In one topic, however, the treatment of haemolytic disease of the newborn, the author is already falling behind; no mention is made of intra-uterine foetal transfusion, one of today's new and exciting techniques. The chapters on major mechanical complications of labour have been condensed since they are less important nowadays due largely to improved antenatal care, although the short review of the 1958 perinatal mortality survey reveals that there is still much room for improvement.

This is a well-known and much used textbook that has stood the test of time. This new edition maintains the former high standard, and can be thoroughly recommended.