

**Handbook of medical treatment.** Tenth edition. MILTON J. CHATTON, M.D., SHELDON MARGEN, M.D. and HENRY BRAINERD, M.D. Los Altos, California. Lange Medical Publications. Oxford. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1966. Pp. 726. Price 42s.

This is one of Lange series of lithographed books. Most people will be familiar with them and will, like the reviewer, find them extremely useful.

Though the last edition appeared only two years ago the rapid advances in therapeutic agents are clearly reflected on practically every page. It is, indeed, remarkable how up-to-date this book is. The handbook covers not only treatment, but also gives a convenient resumé on diagnosis, so that it is probably one of the most useful of this set.

It is a very useful reference book in the surgery and those who have never possessed a copy are advised to remedy this. There is perhaps no need to change every two years but, at its price, it is one of the "best buys" of 1967.

**General urology.** Fifth edition. DONALD R. SMITH, M.D. Los Altos, California. Lange Medical Publications. Oxford. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1966. Pp. 726. Price 42s. 0d.

This book is stated by the author in his preface to have been written primarily for medical students and general practitioners rather than for the specialist urologist and it is true that there are certain aspects of urology which are not described in any sort of detail, for example, the technicalities of transurethral resection which could not interest anyone except a surgeon practising urology, but on the other hand there are many details, particularly minutiae of renal function tests which could be described as being almost too detailed for the general reader. The anatomical diagrams, although accurate are not pleasing and it is surprising that in a modern book emanating from the United States, that the anatomical diagrams are not in colour.

Much is made of the value of phenol red (PSP test), but although this is a useful and probably as accurate a test as any other, it gives no better indication of the state of the patient's renal function than the measurement of blood urea for all ordinary purposes, and although a formula is given for measuring by this method, the glomerular filtration rate, the clinician really wants to know the overall picture of renal function.

The chapter on medical tests of the kidneys is extremely brief, and in the opinion of the reviewer should either have been a good deal more detailed or left out altogether. With regard to x-ray examination of the urinary tract, although tomograms are mentioned, little attention is paid to them and this examination is simply carried out under modern conditions and must be regarded as invaluable and again under modern conditions, essential. The chapters on tumours of the kidney and ureter are very good, but the details of ureterography and the best methods of obtaining accurate pictures of tumours and other lesions of the ureter