

the mental grind to follow. Mr Hallas gives no actual clinical material at all, though his experience is obviously wide. The last 40 pages, with chapters on psychological development, patterns of behaviour, intelligence, personality, the unconscious, and emotions, are of necessity scrappy and unsatisfactory; too much is attempted in too short a space. The main, and best, parts of his book are devoted to nursing treatment and general management.

Dr O'Gorman and Mr Hallas both show not only how wrong and how unnecessary it is to adopt a defeatist attitude, but also how we can cope realistically when we have to face failure.

Practical management of the elderly. W. FERGUSON ANDERSON, *O.B.E.*, M.D., F.R.C.P. Oxford and Edinburgh. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1967. Pp. vii + 304. Price 50s.

There are some very good features in this book which ranges over the whole of medicine from the point of view of the geriatrician. The rehabilitation of the hemiplegic is particularly well described and is illustrated by excellent photographs. A large number of new or modern drugs are discussed or recommended in treatment and in each case accurate details of quantities and intervals are given. It is pleasant to read of the Retired Employee's Association's interest in welfare in Glasgow. On his retirement each employee receives prepaid addressed post cards so that, if he becomes ill or finds himself in difficulties, he can request help immediately; whereupon he is visited by a friend or the personnel officer and need never feel lonely or isolated—a fine boost to morale. On the other hand it is surprising that, in a book of this size, care of the dying is dismissed in less than 50 lines. Occasionally, as on page 17, a sentence is obscure—"An indication is given of the significance of the related produce moment correlation co-efficients (of zero order) in series of age".

The general practitioner should make a note of this book to be referred to in rare or difficult clinical problems.

Chronic diseases and public health. Edited by ABRAHAM M. LILIENFELD and ALICE J. GIFFORD in collaboration with the Conference of Chronic Disease Training Program Directors of Schools of Public Health. Baltimore and London. The Johns Hopkins Press. Oxford University Press. 1966. Pp. xvii + 846. Price 88s.

This is a heavy book—it weighs 3½ lb—and it contains no light reading for the diversion of an idle moment. Instead there is a formidable, indeed almost frightening, mass of factual information on current American practice in the field of chronic disease. An informative introduction on the demographic background to chronic diseases is followed by discussions of methods of measurement including the transatlantic concept of morbidity surveys and the evaluation of their results. Numerous contributors take part in this. The second part of the book is devoted to certain selected diseases, including cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, cardiovascular disease and diabetes. Here again there is a strong western bias, the authors of chapters on diabetes detection in general practice and surveys carried out from 1958–1963 apparently being quite unaware of the work done in Birmingham or Bedford. In the final section there is a description of the administrative aspects of chronic disease programmes with accounts of the work of the National Institutes of Health and other voluntary health agencies.