

Royal College who are indeed working in other countries under the conditions where reliance on this book may be a necessity and, secondly, although the practitioner in this country will not be expected to buy the book, if he has the opportunity to have a leisurely look at it he will learn much of great interest. From the treatment of such an apparently simple surgical emergency as epistaxis to its computerized index (and who would deny that a good index in such a book as this is necessary?) it is completely up to date. To those practitioners who have been qualified for more than a few years the fact that some surgical procedures considered rare only a short time ago are now described in this textbook for the inexperienced surgeon will show what rapid strides are being made in the specialty.

The book is quite rightly dogmatic and it is probably due to this that some statements are made which would not receive general agreement. Few general practitioners, for instance, would consider that tetracyclines should only be used if *no* other antibiotic is available and only with strict isolation and bacteriological control. The oral route for penicillin is not mentioned.

As one would expect, the book has many clear illustrations.

Hamilton Bailey's demonstrations of physical signs in clinical surgery. Fourteenth edition. Edited by ALLAN CLAIN, M.B., F.R.C.S. Bristol. John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1967. Pp. 627. Price £3 15s.

It was with a considerable sensation of *déjà-vu* that I turned to the 14th edition of Hamilton Bailey's classic after 25 years and six editions. Much had changed but much also was still familiar.

The book is now larger in bulk and in length and it has a prosperous and self-satisfied look in its middle age—for it is now 40 years old.

It is undoubtedly a 'classic' by any definition. It was a new approach in 1927 to have a well-illustrated book designed to teach students the basic approach to physical signs. It was written in 1927 by a young surgeon who was not on the staff of a teaching hospital and in fact was never appointed to such a hospital. Hamilton Bailey was the supreme example of one of our most successful surgeons who remained during his whole professional career in a district hospital—in Liverpool, Birmingham and London. He was paradoxically also one of our most successful teachers and his books must have influenced and educated more students than any teacher in a recognized teaching hospital. It is interesting to see that the present editor Allan Clain is also on the staff of a non-teaching hospital.

The book is still a 'must' for every student to look at and read during his final year and it is a rewarding postgraduate exercise for the practising family doctor. It does not take long to go through its 920 illustrations and to pause occasionally to read the text. Surgical diagnosis is an important part of general practice and Hamilton Bailey will help to improve our techniques.

Having lauded it so far I must make a plea for improving some of the illustrations. Many that are still there after my last look at it 25 years ago should be replaced and improved upon.

A history of medicine. I. Primitive and archaic medicine. HENRY E. SIGERIST. A Galaxy Book. New York. Oxford University Press. 1967. Pp. xxi + 564. Price \$3.50.

The late Henry Sigerist set out at the age of 58 to write an eight-volume history of medicine, only two of which have appeared. As he admitted in his foreword the task of writing such an eight-volume work was gigantic, and in order to be