

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

able to consult the original texts he studied 14 languages. More clearly than any previous medical historiographer, to use the phrase which Sigerist seemed to prefer, did he endeavour to weld the history of medicine into the general scheme of things so that in reading his works one learns of the people, the patients, their ways in disease and their ways in health, and in so doing gets a clearer idea of their ideas and theories concerning disease. Sigerist was not only a great medical historian, he had the ability given to so few of being able to convey his meaning in clear, simple and very readable English. Many will welcome this cheap edition of a very great book.

Public health in Glasgow 1905-1946. SIR ALEXANDER MACGREGOR, *K.B.E.*
Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Limited. 1967. Pp. xi + 175.
Price 25s.

The history of public health as usually encountered by its disciples is apt to be dry, a catalogue of legislation with interspersed tables of statistics. Water supplies, drainage and refuse disposal figure with slum clearance and rehousing. The few personalities are portrayed as writers of long and dry reports.

Only occasionally do we get an account of what was really happening during the time when the social services, as we now call them, were evolving. This is why this short book by one who has lived and worked through these momentous years is so important. That it purports to be concerned with the health of Glasgow only is not material. Indeed, Glasgow was one of the worst cities in the country for slums, rickets and consumption. How these and other problems were tackled is typical of what was happening all over the country. Sir Alexander MacGregor has succeeded in showing how the different problems presented and how they were successfully tackled. In doing so he has written a human story which is readable and instructive. It is a pity that a book so packed with information should have no index.

Food fact and figure. MARY E. BECK, *S.R.D.* Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Limited. 1967. Pp. iv + 74. Price 6s.

Plenty of common sense with enough sound science are served up by a dietician in this useful book for laymen. Although the general practitioner may not agree with every detail, he may safely recommend it as a guide for those patients interested in and responsible for their own nutrition and that of infants, children, the elderly or the sick. The relationship between food and dental health is dealt with thoroughly, and there is a section which scotches the mythology of constipation. There are a few practical and acceptable recipes, and even suggestions for a packed lunch. Altogether an exemplary exercise in health education, indexed and wittily illustrated.

A synopsis of ophthalmology. Third edition. J. L. C. MARTIN-DOYLE, *M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.* Bristol. John Wright and Sons Limited. 1967. Pp. x + 271.
Price 35s.

This latest edition of the *Synopsis of ophthalmology* is a short, compact, easy to handle book. The type is set well, headings are clear and understandable and the text is written with delightful simplicity. This is a thoroughly pleasant and easy book to study. Despite the fact that there are very few illustrations the