

a note on Ireland. Most family doctors have in their care at least one mentally subnormal patient, and, what is often as important, his family who are affected by his existence. This closely packed book, at a bargain price for a medical monograph, will be a useful acquisition for the general practitioner's reference shelf.

Intestinal absorption. British Medical Bulletin. London. The British Council. 1967. Pp. 205+296. Price £1 10s. 0d.

The intestinal epithelial cell is revealed in these papers as a fascinating unit of biological activity. Those wishing to bring their knowledge of the physiology and pathology of the intestinal tract up to date will find this number invaluable.

Public attitudes and mental health education: The Northamptonshire Mental Health Project. 1963. A. GATHERER, M.D., D.P.H., D.I.H., and J. J. A. REID, T.D., M.D., B.SC., M.R.C.P., M.R.C.P.E., D.P.H., Northamptonshire County Council. Pp. 43+appendices. Price 5s. 0d.

Does the community care?

'Community care' is becoming a threadbare phrase, worn before its time. It is used in connection with all kinds of illness and many social needs which are not by any means the concern of medicine; it rolls glibly from the tongues of politicians and after-dinner speakers wishing to impress, but few have attempted to measure the potential for community care and the need for community knowledge of even the easy things.

With commendable courage the county of Northamptonshire planned and undertook a study of one of the more difficult subjects that could be chosen, the community's awareness of, and attitudes to illness of the mind. After many weeks of planning initiated by the county health department and the Northamptonshire branch of the British Red Cross Society, an observer network was created from members of voluntary and other local organizations in many localities throughout the county. Volunteer lecturers and interrogators were trained in the use of comprehensive questionnaires and the co-operation of both the local press and the regional broadcasting station was secured. Voluntary societies included lectures during their regular programmes—themselves subject to critical analysis by the lecturers—and special conferences were organized for groups not normally approachable. In this work the organizers were assisted by the clergy, schoolteachers, industrialists, police and youth club leaders.

The aim of the questionnaire was to find out how much the people in Northamptonshire knew about mental illness, both before and after a planned campaign of health education. Questions were framed to elicit people's reaction to the problem of mental illness as a whole in relation to other medical social problems, their knowledge of the characteristics of mental illness and where those who were mentally ill could get help. About a thousand completed questionnaires were examined before the health education campaign, and the same number afterwards to determine what impact, if any, the health education effort had made.

The interpretation of the questionnaire data is by no means easy but fortunately some aspects of the study had been touched on by the British Broadcasting Corporation in a national programme 'The hurt mind' enabling comparisons to be made between the responding inhabitants of Northamptonshire and their counterparts elsewhere. Even allowing for differences in examination method

the inhabitants of Northamptonshire come out well. Those who are mentally ill in this county will meet a wide measure of sympathy, understanding and responsible care from their more fortunate colleagues.

Though general practitioners took part in the planning of the study, and respondents quoted them as a source of help, the questionnaire did not bring out their particular value as agents of community care in this regard. It would have been of interest to incorporate in this study evidence of the kind obtained during the College's study of the prevalence of serious mental illness. The fact that the quoted study displayed its local authority origin in its performance need not detract one moment from its merit.

It must be concluded that health education of this kind has both direct value—of limited extent—and indirect value which may be much greater. Assessment of awareness and change of attitude among ordinary people before and after the campaign revealed no startling differences but all those responsible citizens who had taken part in the planning and conduct of the exercise were undoubtedly better informed and of greater understanding when it had been completed. Probably in no other county is responsible knowledge of mental illness so widespread among those who are likely to be of influence in the county's affairs, a fact which bodes good for the long future.

Functional Bandaging. S. W. MEYER, M.D., F.A.C.S., D.S. Amsterdam, London, New York. Elsevier Publishing Company, Inc. 1967. Pp. ix+294. Price 75s.

This is an elementary subject, written in the simplest fashion and suitable for probationer nurses.

Medicine today announce a special supplement as a tribute to Sir Arthur Porritt, Bt., Governor General designate of New Zealand. Copies are available from the Publishing Department, *Medicine Today*, 3 Hoshang Road, Karachi 4, Pakistan. Price 7s. 6d.

PAMPHLETS RECEIVED

Requirements of Vitamin A, Thiamine, Riboflavine and Niacin. Report of a joint FAO/WHO expert group. World Health Organization Technical Report Series No. 362. 1967. Geneva. Pp. vii+86. Price 5s. 0d.

Services for the prevention and treatment of dependence on alcohol and other drugs. Fourteenth report. World Health Organization Technical Report Series No. 363. 1967. Geneva. Pp. 45. Price 5s. 0d.

Research in psychopharmacology. Report of a WHO Scientific Group. World Health Organization Technical Report Series No. 371. 1967. Geneva. Pp. 39. Price 5s. 0d.

The flow of medical information in hospitals. A report of a study commissioned by Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust. London, New York, Toronto. Oxford University Press. 1967. Pp. 47. Price 10s. 0d.

The Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust. Seventh report. 1964-1967. London and Tonbridge. The Whitefriars Press Limited. 1967. Pp. 151.

The know-how of infant care. SYLVIA CLOSE, S.A.N.C. Bristol. John Wright and Sons Limited. 1967. Pp. 49. Price 5s. 0d.
