

logical norms which is well-indexed and easy of access. Altogether a most useful work, and well up to the standard of other volumes in this series.

**Surgery in infancy and childhood.** Second edition. W. M. DENNISON, M.D., F.R.C.S. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1967. Pp. xvi + 597. Price 70s. 0d.

The title of this book *Surgery in infancy and childhood*, may well suggest to the general practitioner that it is a specialized work not intended for him. If he has this impression, and does not read it, he will miss an experience both pleasurable and profitable. This book describes generally surgical diseases of infants and children and their treatment, and is not a manual of operative surgery. It is based on lectures and demonstrations designed for final-year students of the Glasgow Medical School and has a freshness of approach which stems from the fact that it represents personal views and was originally delivered 'live'.

Chapters I-IX are on general topics. They are written in an attractive style, with a strong tincture of common sense, and matters are not allowed to get out of proportion. Chapter I, on Surgery in Infancy and Childhood, gives a general view of the subject, dealing with the difference between children and adults, their reaction to trauma and infection, and similar topics. The advice it contains is of great value, and the same applies to Chapter IV, Surgery in the Newborn, which contains a survey of neonatal surgical conditions and emphasizes the importance of early diagnosis and treatment, especially for certain congenital lesions. Chapters VI and VII, on Trauma and Infection also make good general reading.

Chapters X-XXV deal with the subject in more detail on a regional basis. Chapter XI, Abdominal Pain in Infancy and Childhood is a helpful contribution on a symptom which is often difficult to interpret, and where misinterpretation may lead to tragedy. Chapter XVIII on The Thorax and Chapter XIX on The Head contain much useful information not always to be found in one place.

The general lay-out of the book is pleasing. The illustrations are good, and have the added virtue of showing what they are meant to show. One small criticism—the paper is so glossy that it reflects the light and tends to interfere with easy reading. This is an excellent book, well worth reading. More than that, it is a book to keep, and therefore well worth buying.

**A short textbook of psychiatry.** W. L. LINFORD REES, B.SC., M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.M. London. English Universities Press Ltd. 1967. Pp. x + 305. Price 25s. 0d.

Recently my young cousin returned from a student's psychiatric internship at an American hospital. His command of psychiatric terms was such that I had to shield behind a wall of anecdotes. I decided to read a textbook of psychiatry as a means of defence. Next day I received a psychiatric textbook to review.

The author states that psychiatry is a generality as well as a speciality because it is indispensable in all branches of medicine and surgery. Psychology is given considerable emphasis (85 pages), likewise, genetics and social psychiatry are emphasized. Psychosomatic medicine is given 21 pages; child psychiatry 13 pages and mental subnormality 15 pages and the doctor-patient relationship is emphasized throughout. All varieties of treatment are used and discussed, psychotherapy, psychopharmacy, physical treatment, social and occupational therapy and rehabilitation. The book is up to date. The only word is psyche-

delic; childhood autism is discussed and even the dose of L.S.D. is given.

Unfortunately the book doesn't appear to be what the foreword suggests it is. Rather than a textbook I feel it could be called a textopsis for it is somewhere between a text and a synopsis. Indeed the book is largely figures, classifications, tables, headings, sections and sub-sections, and most paragraphs are short. I find staccato reading difficult. Indeed it took me nearly two months to read the book at the rate of a few pages a night. Nevertheless it is stated that the book is better used in conjunction with a general text. A few selected references are given for the main features at the end of each chapter.

It is stated that the book is aimed at students, and young doctors. The book was shown to a newly-qualified doctor who said 'good God I would never tackle this!' This 300 page paper-back is in line with other books of the same series on medicine, surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology. It sells at only 25s., and is worth it if you like your facts served up neat.

**Emergencies in medical practice.** Eighth edition. C. ALLAN BIRCH. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1967. Pp. xvi + 852. Price 60s. 0d.

This excellent book is filled with detailed practical advice covering all the conceivable emergencies which come the way of the practising doctor. Your reviewer dipped into it tentatively, having a few minutes to spare, and an hour or so later had to rush off to catch up again with a full schedule. It was very difficult to lay the book down.

In the whole of the time spent upon it only two minor criticisms could be found. It is not sufficiently stressed that cooling the skin alone is inadequate in heat stroke and that a cold atmosphere must be breathed and/or cold irrigation of the stomach or colon carried out. Your reviewer knows this from practical experience in three cases. Two of the legends under the diagrams on page 175 seem to have got interchanged—but these are minor matters. This is certainly a book which every doctor should possess.

**The new way to live with diabetes.** CHARLES WELLER, M.D. AND BRIAN RICHARD BOYLAN. William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. Pp. 94. Price 16s. 0d.

This is a book about diabetes written for the intelligent patient—the intelligent American patient in the first instance for there are indications that the book has been modified for the British reader, not with complete success. The novelty which the book claims in its title resides in the recognition of diabetes of three types, insulin-dependent, overweight diabetes and diabetes occasioned by stress. The first two categories are well recognized in this country but some would doubt the existence of the third. The descriptions are good and clearly expressed with the kind of illustrations that attract the lay reader. Some of the procedures in which the patient is assumed to become competent are elaborate and sophisticated and advice on self-adjustment of insulin dosage as well as diet routine would be difficult for many to follow. All would agree, however, with the book's repeated insistence that with adequate self-discipline and control the modern diabetic can live a normal, full and satisfying life.

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