

sions on the physiological problems of the glass and the iron and steel industries, a reminder that for some in this country also extreme environments are the daily rule rather than the rare exception. The monograph is nicely edited and well presented, each chapter carrying a comprehensive list of references for further reading.

The vesicovaginal fistula. J. CHASSAR MOIR, *C.B.E.*, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. London. Ballière, Tindall and Cassell Ltd. 1967. Pp. ix + 196. Price 60s. 0d.

This is a second edition of a book first published in 1961 and now enlarged by the addition of a chapter on severe fistulas with extensive destruction of bladder neck and urethra, a type rare in this country but more common in Africa and India where the author has acquired considerable experience. An historical chapter acknowledges the debt owed to J. Marion Sims whose skill allied to the use of the knee-elbow position and the antiseptic properties of silver wire first made repair possible over a century ago. A description of Sims's discovery of the advantages of the knee-elbow position may encourage the use of it by any general practitioner who finds it difficult to obtain a good view of the vagina and cervix. There is a short chapter on results in which is analysed all those cases seen by the author excepting patients with active carcinoma, a total of 350 of whom 224 had already had unsuccessful operations. All but three were treated, with impressive results and, except for five per cent with residual stress incontinence, complete success in 255 uncomplicated cases.

Professor Chassar Moir's interest in vesicovaginal fistulae is well known and his experience of the condition must be unique in this country. It is so rare that many general practitioners will not see a case in a lifetime unless it be in the terminal stages of malignant disease. Those who wish to refresh their knowledge will find in this book a clear, lucid and detailed account abundantly illustrated with photographs and diagrams.

The hospitalized child and his family. J. ALEX HALLER, JR., M.D., JAMES L. TALBERT, M.D. and ROBERT H. DOMBRO, M.A. Baltimore, U.S.A. The Johns Hopkins Press. London. Oxford University Press. 1967. Pp. viii + 121. Price 57s. 0d.

This nicely produced volume is a collection of essays written by doctors who hold senior posts in the paediatric department of one of the world's greatest hospitals, the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. Their subject 'Children in Hospital' is universal since, by and large, all children, no matter to what race or nation they belong, face the same problem when hospitalized. These problems, however, involve more than just the child, they reach out and affect its entire family before, during and after the child has been in hospital. This book tries to cover these problems, and also it offers an answer, the so called 'Child Life Programme' which is functioning in the Children's Medical and Surgical Centre of the Johns Hopkins Hospital. The child life programme is an attempt to make a child's hospital environment as much like a good home, and its own home, as possible. The first essay deals with the effect of hospitalization upon the child, the second with preparing the child for operation, the third with the advantages of mothers living in hospital with the child. The fourth and fifth essays cover the play and educational needs of the child, whilst the sixth discusses the return home.

Chapter seven gives details of the child life programme, and in effect it is a summation and amalgamation of the ideas put forward in the preceding chapters. In conclusion two appendices give the results of an investigation into similar programmes in 91 children's hospitals and 92 paediatric departments of general hospitals in the United States.

On the inside front cover of the book it states 'This is a book with a mission. Its aim is to bring home to doctors and the hospital personnel the need to regard the hospitalized child as a person and not merely as the subject of surgery or other treatment'. This collection of essays is well worth reading by everybody who is involved in the hospital care of children.

Urology. R. W. BARNES, M.D., R. T. BERGMAN, M.D. and H. L. HADLEY, M.D.
London. William Heinemann Medical Books Limited. 1967. Pp. 582.
Price 55s. 0d.

This book is intended for medical students to use as a quick reference aid, and it lists the differential diagnosis and diagnostic procedure for numerous conditions in the field of urology. It also lists selected references.

It has apparently been printed by reproducing typewritten matter so that it lacks the quality of first class letterpress and has a limited range of headings. Underlining of words is used freely instead of italics.

Little distinction is made between common and rare conditions and it is doubtful whether a practising family doctor would find this book of great value to him, though he might like to have it on his shelf for occasional reference.

Cancer chemotherapy. EDWARD S. GREENWALD, M.D., F.A.C.P. London.
William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1967. Pp. 215. Price 42s. 0d.

Struck by the fact that there has as yet been no collation of the extensive literature on cancer chemotherapy, the author has set about repairing that omission, and this book is the helpful result of his efforts. There is first a section on the pharmacology and physiology of these drugs, followed by the main body of the book in which each is fully discussed, with frequent reference to its bibliography. Finally, the individual diseases for which these agents may be used are discussed in some detail. In analysing and discussing the literature, the author is meticulously careful to disregard any anecdotal reporting and nowhere over-plays his hand. The result is a sane and balanced review of what is not a particularly optimistic field. As the chief value of this book to the general practitioner would be as a work of reference, it is disappointing that it comes in the form of a paper-back, but the format and printing are high quality, and quick reference is easy.

Porphyria—A Royal malady. Articles published in or commissioned by the *British Medical Journal*. London. British Medical Association. 1968.
Pp. vii + 68. Price 12s. 6d.

These papers, which have been published in the *British Medical Journal*, are reprinted in booklet form. Many will be pleased to have this volume. Porphyria will now remain in the minds of all those who read this book as a clinical entity not difficult to diagnose. The authors of the main part of this work, Drs Ida Macalpine and Richard Hunter, have performed a remarkable piece of historical investigation and of retrospective research. They give a most interesting account