

will be published at yearly intervals, until most of the field of therapeutics is covered.

The contents of this first volume deal with the anti-infective agents, vitamins, drugs acting on the blood, and psychotropic agents, and in discussing these subjects the sections are devoted not only to the drug groups but also to their use in the management of different clinical conditions.

Although the articles have been written by different authors, the standard throughout is consistently high so that this paperback is a useful book for reading, for keeping up-to-date, and for reference. Being a paperback it is reasonably priced.

Diseases of the colon, rectum and anus. Tutorials in postgraduate medicine. Edited by BASIL C. MORSON, D.M., F.C.Path. London. William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1969. Pp. xiii+314. Price £2 10s. (£2.50).

This volume, which is the first of a projected series, is really a collection of lectures on diseases of the large bowel and anus, directed mainly at the young trainee surgeon and general practitioner. There are twenty-six chapters, starting with the anatomy, physiology, radiology and instrumentation of the region. These are followed by accounts of each group of ailments and include valuable chapters on colostomy and ileostomy, as well as the expected chapters on polyposis, cancer, proctocolitis, Crohn's disease, ischaemic disease of the large bowel, haemorrhoids and fistula. Each chapter is clearly laid out, important points tabulated and simple line diagrams are well used. There is a short but adequate bibliography at the end of each chapter.

The contributors are all well-known and mainly based at St Mark's Hospital, London. Each has made a clear and precise contribution and the whole has been well put together by the editor.

The general practitioner will find this book a most useful source of information about these extremely common and often inadequately treated conditions. It is excellent value at the reasonable price of 50s., and should be on every doctor's shelf.

It is hoped that the further tutorials projected in this series will keep up the high standard set by the first.

Road accidents and the family doctor. London. British Medical Association. 1970. Pp. 56. Price 10s. (50p).

This booklet is a collation of a series of articles that were published in the *British Medical Journal* last autumn. At the time the reviewer was impressed with the clarity and practicality as being relevant to the needs of any doctor called to a road traffic accident. It is good, therefore, that they are now published as a booklet which is excellent value for ten shillings.

For too long, medical students have not been

taught the essential principles of first aid with, sometimes, unfortunate and embarrassing results for them when they are faced with a serious accident. This may well explain why, in some areas the police and fire services prefer to keep meddlesome professional men out of the way. They have a point. Therefore, any effort to publicize and encourage the development of schemes such as the North Riding Road Accident After Care scheme in other areas is to be welcomed and this booklet does just this. It is fascinating to read, with a wealth of information and leaves one with a desire to learn more about the use of the sophisticated equipment and practical techniques necessary if one is to provide skilled professional care to the severely injured. The articles by Drs Snook and Easton are particularly good in this respect. It perhaps underlines a need for a comprehensive manual on the management of road traffic accidents that will be of use not only to doctors but to all others concerned like the police, fire services and ambulance crews. But accident management is only one side of the coin, the other side is accident prevention and it is timely that Mr Norman Capener should have written the introduction in which he has outlined the valuable contribution of the Medical Commission on Accident Prevention. This is purely a medical body dedicated to the study of what is one of the most serious epidemics of this century and the greatest killer of our young people.

Church and hospital. MARGARET WELCH. London. Falcon Books. 1970. Pp. 59. Price 5s. (25p.)

This short booklet fills a gap in available information for voluntary workers in hospitals. Its title indicates that much of the work discussed is to supply the spiritual wants and needs of patients. The information and advice contained however, can be applied to all forms of visiting and practical volunteer service in wards and outpatient departments.

The explanation about structure and conventions of the professional hospital staffing and methods, will help to avoid misunderstandings and wasted good intentions of the newcomer.

An oversight is the lack of reference to the part that junior medical staff play in their contacts with the patients and awareness of their needs. The shifts of nursing staff and the intermittent visits of consultants may not know all of these, though co-operation with them is essential. Young doctors can be very grateful for the help afforded by experienced volunteers, welfare workers and chaplains.

The style of writing is direct and the reading list admirable.

Coronary care. NORMAN L. GOODLAND, S.R.N., R.N.M.S. Bristol. John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1970. Pp. viii+88. Price 18s. (90p).

This small book is written primarily for the nursing staffs of coronary care units, with a