

condemns baths deeper than six inches, which is just the sort of advice that makes the public see preventive medicine as a joke. Perhaps it is just this sort of contamination of the excellent that has put people off Dr Cyriax in the past.

The test of any book is that it should teach the reader something, and remain a useful source of reference. Even if you are not a Cyriax 'believer', this book passes the test.

DAVID HASLAM

### 1980 YEAR BOOK OF FAMILY PRACTICE

Ed. R. E. Rakel

Year Book Medical Publishers Ltd  
Chicago and London (1980)

453 pages. Price £28.25

The Year Books are a highly successful American series covering 23 specialties. Each one is a collection of abstracts-digests plus short commentaries on papers selected by the editor as of particular importance and relevance to the specialty. It is significant that family (general) practice now takes its place in the series.

The 1980 Year Book of Family Practice is edited by a professor of family practice in Iowa, USA. The period reviewed is mid 1978 to mid 1979. The 18 regional sections have their own sub-editor. The 400 selected papers for abstraction are said to have come from an

original batch of 20,000!

The material is well abstracted and most of the very short commentaries are helpful. The presentation, however, could be easier on the eye and the material could be more attractively displayed. If you are an abstract fan or enjoy *Reader's Digest*, then you will become an enthusiastic regular reader of the Year Book. It is smaller than our own Medical Annual and has a much greater North American input.

I must admit that I enjoyed reading through this collection and learnt much that was new to me. I can recommend it as a good quick read in a library, but, at £28.25, I would not class it as a good buy.

JOHN FRY

### STAMMERING: PRACTICAL HELP FOR ALL AGES

Ann Irwin

Penguin Books Ltd  
Harmondsworth (1980)

137 pages. Price £1.35

This slim volume should be read by all in general practice and is certainly of considerable help to those afflicted with a stammer. The plain and sensitive description and understanding shown by the author, and her resistance to jargon and overpowering medical terminology, make this a most readable book. This is

speech therapy at its simplest and, one suspects, its best. The author is currently in charge of the Department of Speech Therapy at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle and her book can be safely recommended to parents of stammering children and others who have to come to grips with a stammer or stammering relatives.

E. V. KUENSSBERG

### VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS: AN NCVO DIRECTORY 1980/81

Bedford Square Press for the  
National Council of Voluntary  
Organizations

London (1980)

191 pages. Price £3.95

When an old friend gets a new name, it is helpful that as many people as possible should be told, and it is therefore appropriate to notice here the eleventh edition of what used to be called *Voluntary Social Services*, published by the National Council of Social Services. The guide remains, in spite of good competition, one of the very best: comprehensive (over 500 organizations are named), together with their addresses and summaries of aims and activities. This is a booklet for the practice library, so that all the team have access to it.

S. L. BARLEY

---

## REPORT

---

# Television and the Consultation, Aberdeen, 23-25 September 1980

### Introduction

THIS conference was a response to the growing use of television in general practice. Its aim was partly to take stock of the current situation, and partly to develop new ideas for televised teaching material. A particular interest was the use of television in teaching about the consultation. The 40 delegates included representatives from most university departments of general practice, some regional advisers and guests from other disciplines including clinical psychology, psychiatry, education, social work and jurisprudence.

The discussions centred around four general areas:

1. *Aims*. What do we want to teach about the consultation?
2. *Methods*. How can we best teach it?
3. *Materials*. How are existing materials used?
4. *Techniques*. What are the technical problems of using television in this context?

### Proceedings

#### Speakers

A pre-conference evening session set the scene by reporting the results of a postal survey of the present use