

The Treatment of Tropical Diseases. W. H. JOPLING, M.R.C.P., D.T.M. & H. Bristol. John Wright & Sons Ltd, 1960. Pp. iii + 202. Price 20s.

This is a useful short summary of diseases encountered in the tropics; useful for the doctor in the temperate zone who might meet the occasional tropical disease, and a concise summary for the doctor in the tropics. The emphasis on discussing toxic reactions to treatment is most welcome. Useful hints on nursing management are given for such conditions as dehydration, oedema, shock, hepatic failure, and anuria. The chapter on chemoprophylaxis should prove useful to the family doctor who has to advise intending emigrants, as well as the notes on active immunization. It would however, be dangerous to accept the short statements on antibiotics, without referring to more extensive literature.

The Development of the Infant and Young Child: Normal and Abnormal. R. S. ILLINGWORTH, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.C.H. Edinburgh and London, E. & S. Livingstone Ltd, 1960. Pp. v + 318. Price 27s. 6d.

From time to time every practitioner is faced by a mother trying desperately to conceal her fears that her child is mentally backward. Much depends on his handling of the situation. This book will equip him to carry out that difficult task with the skill it demands. Though of only moderate size, it is packed with instruction and wisdom. The literature, so often conflicting, is carefully examined and extensive references are given. At the same time the emphasis is practical, with instructive case reports and a summary at the end of each chapter. A most illuminating section is that on History Taking, which shows how clear answers can be got to clear questions. The chapters on the Examination of the Child, on Normal Development, and those on Variations in the Pattern and in Individual Fields of Development are particularly helpful to the family doctor.

The book fills a real need, is very carefully produced, and will no doubt be a standby through many editions.

Insulin. *British Medical Bulletin.* Vol. 16 No. 3, September, 1960. Price 20s.

This volume contains fifteen papers on a substance of life-giving importance to an increasing number of people, together with something that is comparatively new; two papers on the synthetic hypoglycaemic agents which are now standing up well to the tests of use and time.

The study is of insulin rather than diabetes, the treatment rather

than the disease, and much of the discussion is comprehensible only by the advanced biochemist or physiologist. The lists of references are truly formidable.

This is not a book for every practitioner's bookshelf, but it is the most comprehensive and up-to-date account of the use of one of his most vital therapeutic agents. The last four chapters, read carefully from a library copy of *The Bulletin*, would themselves form an excellent postgraduate course, while a glance at the rest will increase the reader's respect for his laboratory colleagues.

Aids to Medicine. J. H. BRUCE, M.D., M.R.C.P. 7th Ed. London. Baillière & Cox Ltd. 1960. Pp. v + 39. Price 12s. 6d.

The author, quite rightly, has resisted the temptation to increase the size of this book. The book is not and never can be comprehensive; if it were it would no longer be the quick reference book kept in the surgery drawer or the car "glove compartment".

The same methodical manner of presentation, with which we all become so familiar as students, is maintained throughout the book. This makes the index, which could be improved, practically superfluous as thumbing through a few pages in the appropriate section is nearly as quick as referring to the index.

Like good revision notes it contains bare essentials. Differential diagnosis is often included, most of the everyday laboratory tests are enumerated, and treatment is, on the whole, up to date. Therapies not yet fully established are mentioned as such. All drugs are quoted by their official name, and followed, between brackets, by the often better known proprietary name.

The purpose of this book is an *aide memoire* and, as such, I would give it nearly "full marks".

Pocket Prescriber. ALISTAIR G. CRUICKSHANK, F.R.C.P.E. 17th edition. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd, 1960. Pp. v + 307. Price 6s.

When entering or travelling in foreign countries, where English is not spoken, it is a godsend to find, at the frontier railway or airport bookstalls, these minutely printed, but apparently inexhaustive dictionaries of pocket size, which appear to the non-linguistic traveller as the salvation. All the common situations are soon dealt with, after some quick thumbing, through these compact useful dictionaries.

The *Pocket Prescriber* reminded me of these books, being so