

and to give his personal reports and the book is well illustrated with excellent photographs and some drawings and diagrams. It is a pity that while he has written generally in normal and correct English spelling he has chosen to spell the word 'naevus' as 'nevus' in the American style. It is hard to see any justification for this mixture. Furthermore he talks of three alternatives which are a grammatical impossibility.

There is a place for this book on the shelves of those with a particular interest in evolution and the relation of vestigial remnants on disease causation. The author is an original thinker and the work of anyone in this class should be encouraged.

Further Studies in Hospital and Community. Published for the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust. Lond., N.Y., and Toronto. Oxford University Press, 1962. Pp. v—204. Price 15s.

This book describes studies in Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Dundee, in which inpatients from acute medical wards were followed up after discharge. A previous similar survey by Ferguson and McPhail (1954) in Glasgow had shown a depressing situation in terms of recurrence or progression of original disability with resulting chronic invalidism and unemployment. This initial study indicated that the more vigorous application of all existing rehabilitation agencies, social and medical, might have improved the results, but the findings of the present study, by and large, have not realized this hope. This is partly because environmental factors were found to be less important than the nature of the disease process though the relapse rate in the Dundee patients during the initial three month period after leaving hospital was closely related to inadequacy or neglect of treatment. This in turn was most often due to an inadequate appreciation by the patient of the reasons for treatment. This also applied to some extent in the other important aspects of rehabilitation such as a change of work or housing. It is probable that closer liaison between the general practitioner and the hospital and concentration on this defect by more careful and detailed instruction of the patient fairly frequently during the early days of his return home would produce greater dividends than the extension of the existing social services suggested by the Glasgow and Aberdeen workers. These include the formation of "fitness centres" where patients could go for assessment and physical rehabilitation immediately after leaving hospital and where the practical implication of this assessment in terms of adjustments in working conditions and housing etc., to be carried out by the appropriate ancillary social services could be co-ordinated.

This valuable study makes it obvious that we still do not under-

stand fully the impact of serious illness on the average man. For anyone interested in this field of enquiry this report is compulsory reading.

Aids to the Diagnosis and Treatment of Diseases of Children. Eleventh edition. F. M. B. ALLEN, M.D., F.R.C.P., and I. J. CARRE, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P., D.C.H. Lond. Baillière, Tindall & Cox Ltd. 1962. Pp. i + 366. Price 15s.

Four new editions since 1947 are, by themselves, a testimonial for this most useful companion of the "Aids" series, which, established in 1876, have lost none of their vitality by being frequently brought up to date.

The eleventh edition is no exception and the whole field of paediatrics presents in this compact form. Additional material and extended chapters have made this small book a formidable source of information. To have added "cold injury" and the very excellent chapter on the disease of nervous system and disorders of bone, joints and muscle, makes this new edition a helpful reminder to the general practitioner and not just a useful revision for the student. The chapter on endocrine disorders and metabolic disease is an up-to-date summary of this expanding field of knowledge.

Much of the traditional has been left out, yet one wonders whether we really need to discard the older tried iron preparations for the newer fashionable ones. Also, do we really need to swallow the claims of homogenized foods by Heinz and Libby? Surely competent mothers, on weaning their babies, can still feed them on items other than those out of tins. To continue in the critical vein, it seems unwise to give barbiturates to acutely asthmatic children, certainly in general practice where they may not be watched all the time, or oxygen is not immediately available for respiratory failure. A large chapter on Behaviour Disorders might increase the value of this book even further, and Appendix 3 on antibiotics does not carry sufficient warning on the administration of these powerful drugs; after all, it is not just a question of looking up tables to see against what organism there are the greatest number of plus signs. A warning about the all too ready appearance of insensitivity to erythromycin and the danger of a grave staphylococcal enteritis might have been included.

It is good to find diphtheria so extensively discussed as it is important we should remember it although, fortunately, we will have to base our knowledge more and more on such printed reminders.

In short, an admirable book in an excellent series, its very compactness a most attractive point for busy general practitioners.