

and leaves to conjecture the reason why there should be prolonged nitrogen loss after bony injury in fractures of the upper and lower limbs, since the former are not normally associated with prolonged immobilization. The illustrations are outstandingly good and the book is of a handy size to read in an armchair.

**Principles of Clinical Electrocardiography.** Fifth edition. MERVYN J. GOLDMAN. Lange Medical Publications. Los Altos, California; and Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford. 1964. Pp. 377. Price 42s.

The author states in the preface that his intention has been to present the basic concepts of electrocardiography and their clinical application, and that the material so presented has been simplified, excluding exhaustive and detailed treatment of the subject matter. Nevertheless, it is a large and comprehensive book, the demand for which can be judged from the fact that it is the fifth edition since 1956. The visual method of presentation is extensively used, and more space is devoted to diagrams and to reproductions of electrocardiograms than to text. The chapters on arrhythmias and disturbances of conduction are exceptionally good.

In general, the balance and proportions are good but the introduction to vectorcardiography (26 pages) is so brief that it is doubtful whether it serves any useful purpose. Furthermore, when it was inserted, the earlier text was not completely reviewed and brought into line. For example, the electrocardiograms reproduced on pages 182, 183 and 188 purport to show multiple infarctions, but many would subscribe to the view that they show infarction with peri-infarction block, and would deny that multiple infarctions can be diagnosed by this method. Vectorcardiography makes the whole subject of electrocardiography more intelligible; several books are mentioned for further reading, and of these your reviewer would recommend that by Grant.

The chapter on "Interpretation of the Electrocardiogram" is very instructive. It contains examples of most electrocardiographic abnormalities, and as they are deliberately mixed they provide an excellent test of the reader's grasp of what has gone before. The appendix is a brief summary in the form of a guide to electrocardiographic interpretation. It consists of a series of reproductions of electrocardiograms, each with the diagnosis and reference to the page of the text for full description. It is a helpful form of quick reference when confronted with an unusual electrocardiogram.

For an American book of its size, the price is modest but this appears to have been achieved by some sacrifice of quality in the production. It is one of the best books on electrocardiography and well deserves its evident success.

**Principles of Preventive Psychiatry.** GERALD CAPLAN, M.D., D.P.M. London. Tavistock Publications. 1964. Pp. xi+304. Price 42s.

Despite its somewhat formidable exterior this book should have a wide appeal. Dr Caplan is concerned to reduce the mass of mental ill-health