

book which runs to some 550 pages contains over 200 illustrations. Conditions are generally discussed under the essential headings of definition, cause, pathology, symptoms, signs, diagnosis and treatment and where the headings are not specifically given these factors are there in the correct order. It is satisfying to find that treatment is described clearly and adequately. There are most excellent chapters on dysfunctional uterine bleeding, on hormone therapy and on dysmenorrhoea. These three chapters alone are of sufficient value to the family doctor to make the book worthy of a place on his shelves. How often does a day go by in which he does not have occasion to treat one or the other? Sterility seems a rather inadequate title for a chapter on those patients who have difficulty in conception. Sterility and subfertility would be a more accurate and more descriptive term particularly as it covers absolute sterility, relative sterility and subfertility.

It is very satisfying for one who has known many editions of this work to study this latest edition, though one does wonder which teacher dealt with which subject.

The Medical Annual 1964. Edited by Sir RONALD BODLEY SCOTT, K.C.V.O., M.A., D.M., F.R.C.P., and R. MILNES WALKER, C.B.E., M.S., F.R.C.S. Bristol. John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1964. Pp. xxiv + 552. Price 50s.

The *Medical Annual* this year follows the same style as its immediate forerunners. The special articles cover medical considerations in air travel, the *British Pharmacopoeia*, and auto-immunity as a cause of disease. These are all interesting, well-written articles, topical and informative. In the general articles the growing points of medicine are well described—artificial pacing in heart block, pseudo-gout, and infectious mononucleosis have useful notes. There are short monographs on hypnosis in labour, the laboratory diagnosis of pregnancy and skin markers of malignancy. The section on legal decisions and legislation is also valuable.

The *Medical Annual* remains the most concise and easiest reference book on medical progress for the general practitioner.

Uses of Epidemiology. Second edition. J. N. MORRIS, D.Sc., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1964. Pp. viii + 338. Price 40s.

The second edition is improved by much new material though the intention remains the same, namely to show those in both clinical and preventive medicine the usefulness of epidemiology in the widest sense. The chapter headings give a clue to the way Professor Morris develops his argument. After a brief introduction and a historical review come chapters on community diagnosis, community health and the working of health services. Then after a short chapter on individual risks and chances come the three long chapters which develop the main argument of this stimulating book: Completing the Picture, Identification of Syndromes and In Search of Causes.

The book does not end here. There is a useful short recapitulation of the whole, followed by 16 tables in the Appendix with classical examples

of the complementary nature of clinical, laboratory and population studies. This is not so much a textbook as a way of thinking.

Current Achievements in Geriatrics. Papers read at a conference on Medical and Surgical Aspects of Ageing, held in Glasgow, 20-22 November 1963 under the auspices of the Glasgow Postgraduate Medical Board. Edited by W. FERGUSON ANDERSON and BERNARD ISAACS. London. Cassel and Company Ltd. 1964. Pp. xii + 268. Price 30s.

This short book is a collection of the papers read at a conference on medical and surgical aspects of 'ageing', held in Glasgow in November 1963. The conference was divided into five sections with papers on epidemiology and gerontology, cerebrovascular disease, urology, psychiatry and clinical topics. The section on epidemiology and gerontology was not concerned with infectious diseases but with the application of epidemiological methods to certain geriatric problems, such as the cause of death in old age. This particular study shows quite clearly that multiple pathology is the rule and not the exception. These methods of studying the elderly define where the major problems lie and where most effort must be directed whilst resources and manpower are limited. Cerebro-vascular disease is the cause of much distress and many deaths in the elderly. This section included papers by a neuropathologist, a neuro-surgeon and a physician, all of whom have an essential part to play in the diagnosis and treatment of this condition.

'Water troubles' cause much discomfort and a great deal of social inconvenience in the aged. The value of cystometry in the investigation of urological disease is stressed. Some differences of opinion are evident amongst the contributors on some subjects: for instance on the value of chlorhexidine swabbings prior to the collection of samples of urine. The papers on psychiatry reveal the growing problem of mental ill-health in old people and the strain it is putting on the National Health Service. The dementias and depressions seem to be the main disorders found. The final session was concerned with clinical topics. The chairman in his opening remarks said he detected a common theme—trauma, not only physical trauma but malnutrition, pressure, cold and coal-gas poisoning.

This book is a collection of interesting and up to date papers giving an account of 'what is going on' in geriatrics. Time spent reading it is time well spent.

Basic Cardiology. Second edition. T. E. GUMPERT, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P. Bristol. John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1964. Pp. vii + 234. Price 42s.

This is an excellent book. The claim that it bridges the gap between the specialist cardiological texts and the necessarily concentrated account often found in standard textbooks of medicine is well substantiated—in fact, the practising cardiologist could read this book with profit. Six years have elapsed since the first edition appeared; it is a reasonable assumption