

as only the true expert in his own field can achieve.

The College of General Practitioner's tentative beginning of an adverse reaction notification scheme achieves pride of place in this book, along with the subsequent development of the Committee on Safety of Drugs (Dunlop Committee). However, it seems that in the U.S.A. where there is a vigorous attack on a problem once recognized, and with infinitely greater resources, computers and Adverse Reaction Registers are being pressed into service with a truly 20th century efficiency and speed, and will overtake our British counterpart in a very short time.

No medical practitioner opening this book will find himself bored, but will read on fascinated through the many challenging questions to which we, in our responsible positions have to attempt to contribute, and thus help to solve.

**Review of Medical Microbiology.** Sixth edition. ERNEST JAWETZ, PH.D., M.D., JOSEPH L. MELNICK, PH.D., and EDWARD A. ADELBERG, PH.D. Los Altos, California. Lange Medical Publications; and Oxford. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1964. Pp. ix + 456. Price 45s.

To those family doctors who are unfamiliar with previous editions this book will come as a shock and a pleasure. Shock, to realize the immensity of factual knowledge about 'microbes', compared with what was known to Shaw's doctors in their dilemma; pleasure at the clear arrangement and lucid interpretation of so much detail in a style so easy to read.

New to this edition is a chapter on Microbial Genetics, while that on Diagnostic Medical Microbiology has been completely re-written. Five pages of index set out clearly the subject matter of 40 chapters and their subheadings. Just over one page of references contain an unexpectedly brief list of books and journals—not all American—that would repay further attention. Few family doctors will need to own this book, but all would find parts of it stimulating, relevant and instructive.

**The Story of the Progress of Medicine.** C. F. V. SMOUT, M.D. Bristol. John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1964. Pp. viii + 156. Price 30s.

To write a popular history of medicine in the confines of 150 pages is well nigh impossible. Dr Smout is to be congratulated on a very valiant attempt. He has brought under review all the important events and given them their relative prominence in the story—for as he says in his preface he has intended the book to be a complete story. There is little here to cavil at but he is surely incorrect in referring to the act of Elizabeth I as the Public Health Act. The Poor Laws of Elizabeth had no reference to public health and, ignoring the sick, were only concerned with the 'sturdy' beggars. Dr Smout has been well served by his publishers; the book is beautifully produced, and the illustrations, which are well chosen and often unusual, are well produced.