

on which cases of bow legs and knock knees should be treated, and which not.

He has a realistic approach to behaviour problems. He sees them against a background of harassed mothers in flats so thin-walled that babies cannot be allowed to cry. Future parents may be discouraged to read of the many ways in which their children may misbehave. They will be reassured that all save some sleeping problems will respond to sympathetic and understanding management.

This is a book which can easily be read from cover to cover. It probably should be by all who have the care of children. Repetitions are not avoided so the book gains in value as a reference work. The list of references and the index are good.

**Law and Ethics for Doctors.** BY STEPHEN HADFIELD, M.A., M.B., B.CH. (CANTAB.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.OBST.R.C.O.G.; with contributed sections on Negligence BY W. G. HAWKINS and the late W. MAIR; Superannuation BY L. S. POTTER, M.B., CH.B. and Income Tax BY G. W. DONALD, C.A. Eyre and Spottiswood, London, 1958, p.p. xvi—399. Price 42/-.

Doctors as a class are in a stronger position of privilege than almost any other section of the community. It is only right, therefore, that doctors themselves should be fully aware of the laws which sanction these privileges. In the work under review, Dr Hadfield has covered comprehensively all the legal problems which a general practitioner is likely to meet in the course of practice. Many of these are seldom met in any one lifetime and there has always been a need for a book to which the busy doctor could turn when faced with a problem.

This book is more than a reference book. The chapters on ethics, occupying the first fifty pages, contain advice which, if followed, will keep the doctor out of trouble. Much of the information on the courts of law and their procedure are of great interest, and difficult to find elsewhere. The chapter on negligence is a little masterpiece of legal brevity. The organization of medical defence is clearly described and the advice given on when and how to use it is wise and cannot too often be reiterated. The exposition of the intricate laws and regulations relating to dangerous drugs is valuable.

The working of the National Health Service is briefly described, and the chapters on superannuation and income tax will be welcomed by those who find these subjects, as described in the official pamphlets, difficult to understand.

Whatever the problem, the answer is likely to be found here—

How to make an S.O.S. call! How to deal with an attempted suicide! What are the Roman Catholic views on leucotomy and artificial insemination? What is the meaning of *res ipsa loquitur*?

That no practitioner can afford to be without this book, is a remark often made by reviewers. Dr Hadfield's book, however, will lessen the time spent in searching for the solutions to many problems. Those who read it will become more understanding of the processes of British Law. Perhaps no praise could be higher than this.

**Neuritis, Sensory Neuritis, Neuralgia:** a clinical study with review of the literature. BY R. WARTENBERG, M.D., foreword BY W. HARRIS. New York. Oxford University Press, 1958. p.p. xii—444. Price 68/- net.

The conditions which are minutely studied in this volume are amongst the commonest that the general practitioner has to treat, yet the only other monograph in English devoted to this subject is that by Dr Wilfred Harris. A new assessment of these often rather vague conditions is therefore welcome. Dr Wartenberg died in 1956 and this work is a veritable monument to his industry. Each subject, and nearly every statement, is substantiated by numerous references. The work is clinical and regional in its scope. Workers in this field will get valuable help from its comprehensive treatment of the individual nerves.

Some of the author's theories are interesting. His main tenet is that a strict differentiation between neuritis and neuralgia cannot be made. "A peripheral nerve is a highly complicated structure with many afferent and efferent conductive systems. Each system can be affected isolatedly or in combination with a great variety of others. The affection of each system may be paralytic or irritative, and to a different degree. Hence the endless variety of clinical manifestations of neuritis". There is no neuralgia as a separate entity, but there is neuritis with pain: algic neuritis. The author does not claim any originality for his theories, but they will be read with interest and give the general practitioner much food for thought.

This book is rather difficult to read and lacks uniformity in the presentation of the material. These are faults which the author might well have been able to correct had he lived. Nevertheless we commend it to our readers as a fascinating study of a difficult subject.