

to offer to general medicine and to general practice. But as the Cummings suggest, this particular problem-solving must be undertaken largely by the relevant specialists themselves. This book demands critical reading by all who are concerned with the crucial task of re-interpreting the immense wealth of modern scientific medical fact in its context of inter-personal values.

Primary Love and Psycho-analytic Technique. MICHAEL BALINT, M.D., Ph.D., M.Sc., London. Tavistock Publications. 1965. Pp. ix + 307. Price 40s.

This book is derived from a series of lectures prepared by Dr Balint, and occasionally by his wife. It has two main uses. It can be viewed as a reference book for those who are interested in psycho-analysis: or it can be used as a mental exercise for those who have never been analysed. Parts make fascinating reading, but in general the going is pretty hard. The first chapter on the evolution of sexual functions in the different divisions of the animal kingdom is of considerable general interest, but in the end all the observed phenomena have to be forcibly compressed into the analytic theory of the three erotic levels, oral, anal and genital eroticism. A study of the book suggests a comparison between psycho-analysis and religion. Everything must in the end conform with the theory, no matter how far fetched this may appear. The classical characteristics of inflammation calor, dolor, rubor, tumor, and functio laesa are noted to describe just as correctly genital excitement. There are some useful observations, such as the tranquillizer effect of regular coitus, a fact well known to any thoughtful family doctor, but to pick up such pearls one has to wade through a whole chapter on the subject. It is hardly a book for the average general practitioner, and it will not help him to unravel many of the anxious and depressed patients who come to see him at his daily sessions in the surgery.

Facing Retirement by a Country Doctor. Second edition. London. George Allen & Unwin. 1964. Pp. 166. Price 18s.

The second edition of this book retains the philosophy of an active approach to ageing and retirement, unaltered though sometimes high lighted by rewriting. The chapters on finance (‘ Money ’, ‘ Income Tax ’, ‘ Pensions and National Assistance ’) have been brought up-to-date as far as changing legislation permits. Appendices on ‘ Annuities ’ and ‘ Simple Self-made Wills ’ supplement them and indicate that the book is valuable for readers at all levels of income.

The part that women play in variety has been expanded. ‘ Helping a Man to Retire ’, ‘ The Elderly Guest ’, with advice for hosts and guests alike, ‘ Marriage and Companionship ’ seem more fully discussed than in the first edition—This is even more evident in references to supporting services, both voluntary and of local authorities. The special problems (and sometimes reliefs) of ‘ Living Alone ’ and ‘ Dependence and Loneliness ’ are discussed imaginatively and with practical advice. ‘ Prevention of Accidents ’, ‘ Painful Feet ’ and advice on changes in sight and hearing present a dose of instructions without provoking resentment and a thread of instructions on regular and simple meals runs through the book. In