

Lecture Notes on Dermatology. BETHEL SOLOMONS, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P.I.
Oxford. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1965. Pp. viii+249.
Price 21s.

These lecture notes give a clear-cut picture of the more common skin diseases seen in general practice. The photographs are excellent and the text straightforward and very easy to read.

Of detailed criticisms: table 1 shows the amount of ointments, etc., which should be prescribed but gives no idea how long these amounts are expected to last. In the British Isles the most common cause of scalp ring-worm is not *M. Adouini* but probably *M. Canis* in towns and *T. Verrucosum* in the country; equally no mention is made of local measures for removing the mass of infected hairs in cattle ring-worm of the scalp or beard, the most important point in treatment from the patient's point of view. Although smallpox has a small section, no mention is made of orf in the virus diseases, a condition being much more frequently recognized in the farming community. It is stated that nivaquin should only be given under the supervision of a dermatologist for long periods due to eye changes. It would seem that it would be much more appropriate for ophthalmologists to carry out this work, as early changes are difficult to detect. Bullous lesions are seen frequently in general practice presumably due to insect bites—though these cannot be called bullous disorders in the true sense of the term.

This is a most excellent book and can be thoroughly recommended.

How to interpret. A series of volumes published by John Wright and Sons Ltd. Bristol. 1964.

Cardiac Radiology by DANIEL ROUTIER. Pp. 68. Price 8s. 6d.

An Electrocardiogram. Professor CAMILLE LIAN and J. VILENSKI.
Third edition. Pp. 95. Price 11s. 6d.

Pleuropulmonary Radiology. Professor L. BABAIANTZ and F. CARDIS.
Pp. 100. Price 11s. 6d.

Investigations used in Clinical Endocrinology. Professor M. PERRAULT,
B. CLAVEL and J. F. COLAS-BELCOUR. Pp. 136. Price 13s. 6d.

The original Belgian series *Savoir interpréter* consists of 24 volumes of which only five have yet been translated into English. Four of these are briefly reviewed here. They vary in scope, *Clinical Endocrinology* being the most comprehensive. They vary too in their reliability; the two on radiology are good and are well translated. Endocrinology contains many mistakes; for example, p. 24, "an ovulatory" should be a single word; p. 38 "not exceeding 20 per cent" should read "exceeding 20 per cent"; p. 35 a diameter measured in μg ; p. 59 "de Doniach" should read "of Doniach". These are irritating and perhaps rather minor but they disturb one's confidence. The volume on *Electrocardiography* is worse. For example, p. 25 "some useless complications" . . . ? calculations. And rather surprisingly the author includes vectorcardiography in these useless complications. Page 31 in the description of the clinical importance of heart block, bundle branch block and A-V block are mixed up in a

way which no beginner could disentangle. The top half of p. 46 and the middle paragraph of p. 78 are quite incomprehensible. Page 48 is made difficult to understand by having a paragraph misplaced.

These slim volumes are designed to fit easily in the pocket and may have some appeal to hospital residents, but it should be pointed out that in each case better books have already been reviewed in these pages.

Research in Immunology. World Health Organization Technical Report Series No. 286. Geneva, 1964. Pp. 100. Price 8s. 6d.

This is the report of five scientific groups convened by the Director-General of WHO, and deals with immunoprophylaxis and immunotherapy, immunopathology, tissue antigens and transplantation, immunochimistry and research programmes in immunology. It is well written and anyone interested in current or future work in this field should get this report from the library.

Parr's Concise Medical Encyclopaedia. J. A. PARR and R. A. YOUNG. Amsterdam. London. New York. Elsevier Publishing Co. Ltd. 1965. Pp. x+514. Price 30s.

This is an excellent dictionary—it is not complete enough properly to be described as an encyclopaedia—for the use of secretaries and receptionists. The short descriptions of the conditions which are mentioned are so elementary as to be easily understood by those untrained in medicine and for many will increase their interest in their work. There must be minor criticisms in so ambitious a volume. For instance, we prefer to spell *antenatal* as one word and not two, and some indication might be given of when to italicize, but, by and large, there is little to carp at.

The Obstructing Acromion. Underlying Diseases, Clinical Development and Surgery. BERNARD DIAMOND, M.D., F.A.C.S. Springfield, Illinois, U.S.A. Charles C. Thomas. 1964. Pp. xv+212. Price \$9.50.

This is a well illustrated, well printed volume written in a grammar and style which is to us somewhat unusual. The anatomy and physiology of the shoulder girdle are discussed and the details of 44 cases in which the author found cause to remove the whole or part of the acromion. The bibliography is extensive and the author finds time to introduce the various members of his family and the parts that they played in the production.

This is one of those highly specialized articles in which more and more tends to be written about less and less. It is suitable perhaps for publication in an orthopaedic journal but it is hard to visualize it being of interest to the family doctor or to those interested in the broader fields of medicine.