

same time the size must be limited so as not to overload the reader with too much detail and be reasonably priced. A new book on forensic medicine is certainly needed and it is pleasing to see the subject studied from a fresh standpoint. Polson's book has reached the second edition and received the Milburn prize for 1963-64.

The general layout is well done, it is easy to read and has a good comprehensive index. The first edition had no pictures but 153 were included in the second edition. These are of the type to be expected in a textbook of forensic medicine. The photography is reasonable but many of the photographs are hardly academic and border on the sensational; there are the usual photographs of strangulations, bodies in bedrooms and baths and although not very instructive these are interesting in themselves.

It is stated in the preface that the book is intended to meet the needs of undergraduates, resident medical officers, general practitioners and others. It is well known that of the total number of cases seen by police surgeons and general medical practitioners approximately one-third are sudden deaths, one-third drunk-in-charge and the remainder sexual crimes. The sudden death aspect of forensic medicine is covered in considerable detail and will certainly be most useful to forensic pathologists.

Nothing is mentioned about drunks-in-charge; this is probably deliberate as the author states in his preface to the first edition that "toxicology . . . demands separate treatment and another book . . . is in preparation". There are pictures showing foam on the mouths of drowned men and others showing the arborescent markings caused by lightning, etc. The photography is good but the clinical value limited and it is unfortunate that other important aspects of forensic medicine have not received the same attention. Of the 575 pages, eight are devoted to sexual offences.

The average undergraduate and general practitioner will probably require one book on forensic medicine and unfortunately this is not the book. It is excellent for the pathologist but for day-to-day clinical forensic problems it is sadly deficient.

Enteric Infections. WHO Technical Report Series No. 288. 1964. Geneva. Pp. i+36. Price 5s.

This very concise and concentrated monograph presents an authoritative and up-to-date view on the enteric infections. It starts with a helpful and intelligible section on terminology and classification, leading on to data and information on morbidity and mortality, through the specific pathology and pathophysiology to a consideration of individual intestinal pathogens, each of which is concisely and clearly differentiated. The old classification of eight headings under which diarrhoeal disease was considered has now been reduced to three and the role of malnutrition in diarrhoeal disease is now more clearly defined. The factors contributing to the occurrence of enteric infection are tabulated and analysed and the particular vulnerability of the pre-school child is brought out. The studies of the WHO Diarrhoeal Disease Teams in Guatemala and Mauritius

form the basis of much of the inferred data.

In discussing the preventive measures the importance of health education through maternity and child health clinics and training of food handlers is emphasized as is the value of proper sanitation and the management of the convalescent case.

The committee also set out what they consider to be the most important research needs, including

- (a) Study of the role and aetiological significance of enteropathogenic *E. coli* both in sporadic cases as well as epidemic diarrhoea.
- (b) The relationship of specific malnutrition deficiencies and infections with enteric viruses in diarrhoea diseases.
- (c) Local environmental studies of the effect of improving water supplies and sewage disposal together with attempts to improvise ways and means of raising sanitary facilities by the use of inexpensive locally available materials.

The text ends with recommendations on the application of control measures in public health practice which set out in clear and concise form how to deal with the problem, and include firstly the priorities where resources are lacking, then consider the advanced conditions and finally the state where the problem is the proper method of consolidation of an existing control programme.

The A.B.C.'s of Athletic Injuries and Conditioning. A. B. FERGUSON, JR., M.D., and J. BENDER, B.S., M.S., Ph.D. Baltimore. Williams & Wilkins Co. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1964. Pp. viii + 253. Price 74s.

This combined work by an orthopaedic surgeon and a physiologist, with a special interest in athletic conditioning, is intended "as a ready reference for the coach, trainer, and school physician and perhaps for the athlete himself". It is divided into two main sections. The first, dealing with athletic injuries, is excellent, written in simple language for the lay reader but with sufficient detail for definitive medical treatment to be given by the attending doctor. The chapter on head and facial injuries rather surprisingly omits reference to the common auricular haematoma seen in boxing. There are a number of extremely helpful diagrams but the photographic illustrations are exclusively of American football and baseball. The second section on athletic conditioning is less easy going for the reader who has not a specialized interest in the subject. The methods used to assess the strength of various muscle groups are described using specialized, although basically simple, apparatus—the Multiple Angle Strength Testing Table and the Modified Shoulder Flexion Goniometer are examples. Exercises designed to strengthen various muscle groups are then described and illustrated diagrammatically.

There are special chapters on such diverse subjects as isometrics, athletic equipment (fascinating but not applicable here!) and 'taping'. The book is attractively bound and printed and, despite the authors' preoccupation with the two main American team games, what they have to say about the types of injury and their treatment and rehabilitation applies equally to the team games and athletic pursuits of this country.