

Current Diagnosis and Treatment. H. BRAINERD, M.D., S. MARGEN, M.D., M. J. CHATTON, M.D., and associate authors. Los Altos, California. Lange Medical Publications. Oxford. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1965. Pp. xi + 886. Price 72s.

According to the foreword, "This book is intended to serve the practising physician as a useful desk reference on the most widely accepted techniques currently available for diagnosis and treatment. It is not intended to be used as a textbook of medicine". There are very few illustrations and, as style is sacrificed in most cases to the pressure of material on space, the first impression is rather indigestible. Used, however, as a reference book for medical conditions met with in the course of general practice in this country, it is on the whole helpful, accurate and up to date and gives treatment in reasonable detail, with adequate references to current literature on both sides of the Atlantic.

The spectrum of disease covered does not correspond with that met with in general practice here. The authors claim to deal "primarily with internal medical disorders" with discussion of disorders commonly met with in certain other specialities. There are, for instance, sections on eye diseases, ENT, and psychiatry as well as gynaecology and obstetrics—the latter mainly concerned with medical aspects of antenatal care. Paediatrics is completely excluded. A new section in this edition deals with medical genetics.

An article on diseases due to cold refers to chilblains and frostbite but makes no reference to the hypothermia syndrome found in infants and the aged.

Some of the drugs referred to are unfamiliar under the American names and one is left with the overall impression that this publication, although reasonably priced for the material it contains, is more likely to appeal to American practitioners than to their opposite numbers in this country.

Lecture Notes on General Surgery. H. ELLIS, D.M., M.Ch., F.R.C.S., and R. Y. CALNE, M.S., F.R.C.S. Oxford. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1965. Pp. x + 382. Price 42s.

Thirty or 40 years ago the 'Aids' series was often the last minute refuge of the harassed medical student about to take his final examination. Now come the 'Lecture Notes' series, not so compressed as the old 'Aids', but nevertheless presenting in the comparatively small space of 382 pages, a fairly full resumé of the surgery a student is expected to know. All the main points are there, and serve to remind the reader of his areas of ignorance and send him scurrying to a textbook for further reference. There are certain chapters in which various aspects of a single condition are co-ordinated under one heading. These include Postoperative Complications, Tumours, Head Injuries and Mechanical Intestinal Obstruction. They present a refreshingly practical approach and would appear to be of particular value.

All the general surgical conditions are well treated. There are, however,