

ness of doctors and the poor design of appointment systems, due to block bookings being too high, appeared to be the two major causes of patients waiting. Waiting time can be measured and reduced by quite simple methods, particularly in clinics where the appointment systems are grossly inaccurate.

This slim volume should be studied by all who control or work in hospital clinics, and doctors in charge ought to be reminded of Beatty's comment to a brother officer, "Don't be late Admiral; anything but late".

Nurse and Patient. GENEVIEVE BURTON. London. Tavistock Publications. 1965. Pp. xi+220. Price 21s.

This book is No. 10 in the series *Mind the Medicine Monographs*, edited by Michael Balint, and though directed at the student nurse is worthy of attention from a much wider field, including both established and intending general practitioners. Medical practitioners have traditionally given tacit recognition to the emotional and personal problems relevant to medical care, but the pressures of advancing scientific knowledge in the past few decades have tended to push this side of medicine into the shadows. This book, like many others now appearing, is evidence of the current reaction, and the study of personal relationships as they apply to medical and nursing care is becoming a subject for formal study. No general practitioner can afford to neglect advances in this field.

One of the book's outstanding merits is its clarity: it is exceptionally easy to read and free from jargon. Genevieve Burton is an American, but her text has been altered where necessary to bring it into line with current English usage. The text is heavily larded with case-reports, which successfully illustrate the perils of neglecting the patient's emotional difficulties and problems; and the nurse's need to understand her own emotional reactions and attitudes in professional relationships. Almost everything demonstrated could apply with equal force to doctor-patient relationships, and this easily read, small book is well worth inclusion in the general practitioner's reading list. It should be particularly helpful to students during their clinical training, and is recommended to them.

Transactions of the World Asthma Conference. London. The Chest and Heart Association, 1965. Pp. 9+223. Price 37s. 6d.

In this volume, the Chest and Heart Association has brought together over 50 papers, delivered in nine sessions and six group discussions.

In *The Natural History of Asthma as seen in General Practice*, Dr