

Book Reviews

Medical Sound Recording. JOHN GRAVES, *O.B.E.*, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. and VALERIE GRAVES, *O.B.E.*, M.B., B.S. London and New York. The Focal Press. 1965. Pp. 461. Price 55s.

The post-war development of electronic apparatus and the commercial production of tape-recorders opened new fields in medical education. Several doctors, including your reviewer, saw some of the possibilities of this medium and experimented with varying degrees of success, but it was only given to the authors of this book to appreciate fully the value of tape-recording in the teaching of medicine and to have the energy and determination fully to develop it. Their valuable work is well known to members of the College. Out of their vast experience they have produced this book which is a comprehensive survey of the subject of sound recording, especially in its application to medicine.

The book is in five sections. The first deals with the range of medical sound and the value of recorded sound in medicine; the second with recording theory, mechanisms of speech and hearing, and principles of good medical speaking; the third with practice . . . recording practice, recording the medical speaker, recording the medical meeting, recording the patient's voice, measuring noise and hearing, recording internal sounds, and standardization and serial recordings; the fourth section deals with processing; and the fifth with administration. Included in this is useful advice on the choice and selection of apparatus, without which the beginner would waste much time and money in trial and error. The authors have met the common snags and pitfalls and give advice on their avoidance; this assistance alone is worth the price of the book.

This bare outline fails to convey how informative and entertaining the book is. It is written in a refreshingly clear and lucid style and it is hoped that the general reader will not be put off by the suggestion of specialization in the title, for there are few who would not enjoy reading it or indeed fail to derive benefit from the exercise.

The book is well produced on semi-matt paper, adequately illustrated and has a good index.

Modern Perspectives in Child Psychiatry. Edited by JOHN G. HOWELLS, M.D., D.P.M. Edinburgh and London. Oliver and Boyd. 1965. Pp. xvi+595; illustrated. Price £5 5s.

Dr Howells has undertaken the formidable task of producing a comprehensive statement and analysis of the scientific basis of child psychiatry. Half of the volume is devoted to this theme. The other half of the book is