

Book Reviews

Skin complications of vaccination against smallpox. Recording by DR ERIC WADDINGTON. The College Medical Recording Service and Sound Library.

During the smallpox outbreak of 1962, about 900,000 people were vaccinated in South Wales. Dr E. Waddington, a consultant dermatologist to the Cardiff Group of hospitals, was closely associated with this outbreak and grasped this unique opportunity, not only of studying the dermatological complications of smallpox, but also the many skin complications following vaccination.

In this lecture, he describes 242 patients with skin complications following smallpox vaccination. He stresses the dangers of mass vaccination, when patients are exposed to the unnecessary risks of severe complications and, in some cases, as serious as smallpox itself. The most serious of these is eczema vaccinatum, a complication which caused the death of two of his patients. This catastrophe can be avoided by not vaccinating those who suffer from eczema nor their immediate contacts, for fear of accidental vaccination. Another serious complication is anaphylactoid purpura which caused serious renal damage in four of the speaker's cases. In vaccination during pregnancy, there is a risk of inducing foetal vaccinia not only in the first trimester, as is commonly recognized, but also in the latter months of pregnancy when foetal death can occur.

This is a tape admirably suited for group discussion, which could bring in such controversial topics as mass vaccination of the general population during smallpox outbreaks, routine vaccination of children, vaccination during pregnancy and the vaccination of overseas travellers.

Anyone who carries out vaccination against smallpox, is recommended to listen to this lecture. Dr Waddington is a good speaker and illustrates his talk with 32 excellent 35 mm. colour slides.

Price's textbook of the practice of medicine. Tenth edition. Edited by SIR RONALD BODLEY SCOTT, K.C.V.O., D.M., F.R.C.P. London. Oxford University Press. 1966. Pp. xiv + 1259. Price 90s.

The latest edition of this famous textbook has several welcome innovations. There is a two column lay-out, which should make for easier and quicker reading, and references to review articles are included after each section. The criticism that it takes ten years for a new advance to find its way into a textbook can hardly be said to hold true here, as almost half