

**Dermatology. A functional disorder.** A. JARNETT, M.D., D.SC., M.C.PATH., F.R.C.P., R. I. C. SPEARMAN, B.SC., PH.D., M.I.BIOL., and P. A. RILEY, M.D., B.S., PH.D. London. English Universities Press Limited. 1966. Pp. x + 246. Price 20s. paperback; 30s. library edition.

This book is exceptional value for 20s.

There are no long minute descriptions of the Dermatoses, no long detailed classifications and sub-divisions, and no illustrations. Instead the whole book is written from a functional aspect—the only sections difficult to read are those on the biochemistry of the skin and these have been simplified as much as possible.

It is doubtful if a student learning skin diseases for the first time could obtain a clear clinical impression from this book—but to a person who already has a clear clinical picture of the various dermatoses in his mind, this book really brings skin diseases alive.

**Nutrition and infection.** Report of a W.H.O. Expert Committee. W.H.O. Technical Report Series No. 314. Geneva. W.H.O. 1965. Pp. 30. Price 3s. 6d. (Also published in French and Spanish.)

Infectious disease nearly always worsens co-existing malnutrition, and the consequences of infection are likely to be more serious in a malnourished host than in a well-nourished one. The simultaneous presence of infection and malnutrition may result in an interaction more serious than the additive effects of the two factors working independently. Primary herpes simplex as well as measles or tuberculosis may be more severe in malnourished children. Malnutrition lowers the level at which pathogenicity begins and may increase the frequency of carriers. This report outlines some of the recent research carried out in many countries and points the way for further studies of resistance as well as immunity. Most doctors will find something here to interest them, wherever they practice.

**Calling the laboratory.** Second edition. Edited by W. A. R. THOMSON, M.D. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1966. Pp. ix+126. Price 17s. 6d.

This is a series of articles originally published in the *Practitioner*, which have been collected together in a paperback. Each chapter has been written by an acknowledged expert and discusses various laboratory investigations, their place and usefulness in clinical medicine. Where of interest, a short historical background is given.

The second edition has been fully revised and includes a new chapter, Cytological Examination of the Sputum. Also of interest is Professor Camp's rewritten chapter on Chemical Tests for Alcoholic Intoxication.

This book is simple and readable. It has a good index which is essential in any reference book. A very useful book to have at hand when deciding to call in the laboratory and also for interpreting the results on their return.