

**First aid.** Second edition. The authorized manual of The St. John Ambulance Association of the Order of St. John. London. The St. Andrew's Ambulance Association and The British Red Cross Society. 1965. Pp. 272.

This new manual has been awaited with great expectation as embodying all the latest ideas in teaching first aid. The manual has been considerably enlarged into four parts. The first part consists of essential first aid necessary for the first aid certificate. The second and third parts cover advanced first aid, the latter part detailing a number of advanced procedures to be taught as drills and are similar to some of the 24 procedures developed by the R.A.M.C. A further section deals with first aid in various specific circumstances, e.g. hot climates, exploring parties etc.

The first section on elementary first aid is written in a very terse style, each subject being dealt with in a series of sharp, staccato sentences with asterisks against those indicating action to be taken. This does not make for easy reading and it is possible that the beginner would find this confusing and difficult to understand. An explanatory exposition of each subject followed by a summary of essential first aid diagnosis and management would have made a more readable manual. In detail the following criticisms may be made. The very important subject of chest injuries is tucked away in the chapter on bleeding and would have been better treated as a separate chapter. In the chapter on burns, no mention is made of hot metal burns. There are good sections on unconsciousness, hypothermia and the transport of the injured. The last three parts of the manual are very good. In summing up, the manual is an improvement on the previous edition, but in the first section, in attempting to be too concise it has lost clarity.

**Marriage and first pregnancy.** Cultural influences on attitudes of Israeli women. ESTHER R. GOSHEN-GOTTSTEIN, B.A. DIPL. PSYCH., PH.D. Philadelphia and Montreal. J. B. Lippincott Co. London. Tavistock Publications. 1966. Pp. xii+142. Price 30s.

The rapid increase in the population of the new state of Israel has been due to immigration from two main sources. The Nazi holocaust led to large numbers of Jews leaving Europe both before and after the War. With them they brought a very advanced culture and cultural attitude. An equally large number have emigrated from parts of Asia and Africa where the culture was relatively primitive ('traditional' as the book calls it). This book records a study of 159 primigravida selected at random in Jerusalem antenatal clinics. It is based on a Ph.D. thesis and is presented in a style appropriate to a thesis. It could be argued whether 159 cases is a large enough sample from which to draw significant conclusions. The author is frequently forced to pad her findings with personal reminiscences of individual patients. In such circumstances, it is difficult to evaluate the significance of percentage differences. This book may be of interest to those whose work involves marriage guidance; it may be of especial value if they have as patients immigrants to this country.