

numbers provided a better opportunity for discussion by these experts, and I feel sure would stimulate them either to revise or to pursue further their benevolent efforts.

For each symposium the opening speakers included not only clinicians, but also pathologists, sociologists, statisticians, and genetic research workers, all of whom had already made valuable contributions to their particular subject. Their collected papers provide an exhaustive study of each subject, and these are increased in value by including the discussions that followed their presentation. The bibliography enumerated by each speaker will be of great value to any future worker in this distressing sphere of medical care.

These symposia can confidently be recommended to all who are interested in this branch of medicine.

Migraine. HAROLD MAXWELL, M.D. Bristol. John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1966. Pp. viii + 64. Price 13s. 6d.

This short book is a vindication of Dr Maxwell's thesis that "the migraine headache is an inadequate way of dealing with life situations which are stressful to the individual". After first discussing and dismissing the allergic theory of causation, he proceeds to demonstrate the neuroticism of the migraine sufferer, supporting his arguments with details of his own research. This is the meat of the book, but there are also chapters on the historical background, the differential diagnosis and the management of the condition. The final chapter is written for the migraine patient, but one feels that what has gone before is too technical for the layman to comprehend, and the final paragraph, which implies that the most advanced treatment for migraine patients can only be obtained at ten hospitals in Great Britain, will be a surprise both to layman and doctor. This book can be recommended to the general practitioner seeking a short, comprehensive review of the subject; the exhaustive bibliography will also prove most useful to those doctors interested in investigating the condition further.

Towards earlier diagnosis. Second edition. K. HODGKIN, B.M., B.CH., M.R.C.P. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1966. Pp. xvi + 459. Price 30s.

Very few books by a general practitioner have run to a second edition and the author is to be congratulated on his success. The book contains an immense amount of information not to be found elsewhere. His diagrams of age and seasonal incidence are illuminating and the occasional brief description of individual cases adds interest. As a work of reference it is invaluable, and to browse in it from page to page is most agreeable.