

are not mentioned. With regard to prostatic disorder, the chapter deals in a standard manner with the various conditions, but there is really nothing new and certainly in Great Britain transurethral prostatectomy is not the most common method for removal of the prostate gland used by the majority of British surgeons, and perineal prostatectomy which the author states involves little risk, is almost never practised in this country. The chapters on neurogenic disorders of the bladder are very helpful and clearly set out.

The book is not an easy one to read.

An introduction to electrocardiography. Third edition. L. SCHAMROTH, M.D., B.CH., M.R.C.P. Oxford. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1966. Pp. x + 196. Price 20s. 0d.

The second edition of this book, published in 1964, was favourably reviewed in this journal and part of this review is reproduced on the cover of the third edition. The publication of a new edition so soon confirms the reviewer's high opinion. Many books of this type, designed primarily for the beginner, have been written and published in recent years, but this one is exceptional, especially because the subject is so completely covered. The shift of current practice is away from empirical to deductive interpretation of electrocardiograms and this is based on vector principles. Much of the new material added to this edition is an expansion of the vector principle and the book is thereby greatly improved. It contains 31 more pages than the previous edition but the general form and price are unchanged. It is very comprehensive, concisely written, adequately illustrated and well produced. It deserves the success which it has achieved.

Ophthalmology. KENNETH WYBAR, M.D., CH.M., D.O.M.S. Baillière, Tindall & Cassell. Concise Medical Textbooks. 25s. 0d.

This textbook is designed supposedly to provide a factual and concise account of modern ophthalmology for the medical student and general practitioner. As a rule ophthalmology is taught badly to medical students when far too much is expected of them in knowledge which will be of little use to them in later life unless they intend to practise this speciality. Conversely too little attempt is made to instruct the student in certain important eye conditions whose early recognition is of vital importance, e.g. iritis, acute glaucoma and squint in its early stages. The present volume falls into the same trap. Though small and concise it attempts too much with the result that, on reading it, the subject matter is treated in an even fashion without proper emphasis on the important conditions with which the average practitioner and physician should be concerned. Too much use is made of medical terminology so that clarity of expression is often lost. There is a useful chapter on the administrative care of the blind. The line illustrations are clear but the plates are poor. There is no doubt that good colour plates used to illustrate eye diseases are of immense value and the lack of these is noticeable.