

The eye in general practice. Fourth edition. C. R. S. JACKSON, M.A., B.M., B.CH., D.O.M.S., F.R.C.S. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1967. Pp. viii + 170. Price 27s. 6d.

That this book has proved to be a useful guide to general practitioners is evident from the fact that it now appears in a fourth edition ten years after its first publication. In this edition the author has aimed to reflect the gradual change in the pattern of ophthalmic practice by deleting outdated and introducing fresh material. Whether there is still a place in ophthalmology for penicillin drops and for albugid ointment, especially in a concentration as low as 6 per cent, may perhaps be questioned. Aside from this small criticism the book fulfils its purpose admirably. It is beautifully produced with coloured illustrations of the highest quality.

Acute back Syndrome—a study from general practice. J. B. DILLANE, JOHN FRY AND G. KALTON. *Brit. med. J.* 1966. **2**, 82.

Records were kept over a period of four years (1957–60) of all patients complaining of acute low back pain in a suburban practice of approximately 6,000. Follow-up records were kept over a further four years. During the period of the study, 470 patients suffered attacks. A preceding history of strain was found in only 10.9 per cent of males and 4.3 per cent of females: 7.6 per cent of males and 5.6 per cent of females had definite evidence of nerve root pressure. Once an attack had occurred recurrence was frequent and 44.6 per cent of patients had a further attack during the follow-up period. Recurrence was more likely when the initial attack had been prolonged and where there had been evidence of nerve root pressure.