

**Safer obstetric care.** Operational Research Unit. Oxford Regional Hospital Board. Oxford. 1967. Pp. 28. Available from Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

At intervals of three years the Ministry of Health publishes a "Report on confidential enquiries into maternal deaths in England and Wales". The last four reports covering the years 1952-1963 form the basis of this small booklet which is a brief statement of some of the more important facts compiled by a statistician of the Oxford Regional Board.

Compared with the original reports, the last of which was over 90 pages, the booklet is admirably brief, more so than 28 pages suggests as some contain only a few sentences, easily assimilated. It can be read in less than half an hour and will give the general practitioner a clear impression of the mistakes that are still being made and how to avoid them, as far as they can be avoided in a service in which the human factor plays a part. Most of its statements are factual and without bias; indeed the only outrightly unacceptable suggestion is on the very last page—in a list of high risk groups requiring reference to a specialist unit five are unequivocal but the sixth, any woman whose home conditions are unsuitable, is an obvious case for delivery in a general-practitioner unit.

A useful booklet, intended for general practitioners, hospital medical staff and midwives, which should be read by all who practise obstetrics, not once only but from time to time during the next three years until it is replaced by the next edition.

**Child care.** Specially commissioned articles from the *B.M.J.* London. British Medical Association. 1966. Pp. 360. Price 30s. 0d.

The contents of this book may be well known already to several readers, since it is a collection of articles specially commissioned by and published in the *British Medical Journal* in its current practice section. The book contains 36 separate articles dealing with day-to-day problems, met by the general practitioner in patients of the age group infancy to adolescence. The aim of the authors is to advise, and recommend action for, the general practitioner, not to write a detailed clinical account for the hospital specialist. The authors are, in the main, hospital specialists themselves, but many articles are written in collaboration with a general-practitioner colleague. The subjects covered are largely medical, but some sociomedical topics are included, such as deafness, speech disorders, reading and writing difficulties, behavioural and emotional problems, puberty and the sexual life of the adolescent, and adoption.

This is a book written for the general practitioner, and it should prove most useful to him. It is nicely produced, and at 30s. it is a good buy.

**Psychiatry and anti-psychiatry.** DAVID COOPER. London, New York, Toronto. Tavistock Publications Ltd. 1967. Pp. xiii + 128. Price 25s. 0d.

Dr Cooper takes as his thesis the idea that traditional approaches to schizophrenia are irrelevant to the situation of the schizophrenic patient. To the non-psychiatrically trained it may suffice to summarize this thesis by saying that a modified form of psycho-analysis is used involving both the patient and his family.

The reviewer found this a difficult book to read. The jargon used is so specific