

The activities undertaken by these bodies are surprising in range and content.

The enquirer hungry for factual information will find it here in plenty with references to more at the end of each chapter. Two hundred and fifty references are given to papers on the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis alone. The digestibility of the meal varies but the reader is assured of a detailed insight into the American way of preventive medicine.

Modern trends in rheumatology—1. Edited by ALAN G. S. HILL, M.C., F.R.C.P., M.R.C.P. London. Butterworths. 1966. Pp. xii + 383. Price 95s.

This volume is a collection of 26 contributions by medical and surgical workers in the field of rheumatology. The book divides itself into three broad themes— aetiological research, recognition of the broadening clinical pattern of connective tissue disease, and advances in clinical management.

Taking an optimistic view, some 14 of these articles would be comprehensible to general practitioners, and of these perhaps six would be of practical benefit—at least five would prove well above the head of anybody not a rheumatologist and a bio-chemist. In spite of the obvious trends in the understanding of rheumatoid disease—articular and non-articular—it is somewhat chastening to note that the chapters on the management of the common rheumatoid disorders show little significant advance over the last 20 years—except perhaps in the field of prophylactic and corrective surgery. Obviously this is a valuable résumé of modern thought for the rheumatologist, but of limited practical value to the general practitioner.

Haemophilus influenzae. Its clinical importance. DAVID C. TURK and J. ROBERT MAY. London. The English Universities Press Ltd. 1967. Pp. x + 140. Price 42s.

The authors have done a service to all who are interested by bringing so much material together in one volume about 'The Influenza Bacillus'. Well-written chapters deal first with the laboratory angle for the medical 'layman', and then discuss the role of the bacillus in healthy human communities, as a pathogen, in meningitis, bronchial disorders and other conditions. Chemotherapy, immunology and some 'back room' aspects complete the main part of the book, all technical details being gathered into four appendices.

This book is worth getting out of the local medical library; they should have it.

A short textbook of gynaecology and obstetrics. G. D. PINKER, M.B., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. and D. W. T. ROBERTS, M.CHIR., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. London. English Universities Press Ltd. 1967. Pp. xii + 188. Price 16s.

'Short' in the title is more than justified by the compression of both obstetrics and gynaecology into 188 pages 5½ in. x 8½ in. without using small print and including a moderate number of diagrams. Obstetrics has a rather larger share of the space, 100 pages compared with 80 for gynaecology. Most of the basic facts of the subject are stated, clearly if briefly. No references are given as the book is written from the authors' experience. The index is no more than adequate.

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