

general practitioners' work and many aspects of the nature and management of these disorders are very different from hospital practice.

Handbook of paediatrics. Seventh edition. HENRY K. SILVER, M.D., C. HENRY KEMPE, M.D. and HENRY B. BRUYN, M.D. Los Altos, California. Lange Medical Publications. Oxford. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1967. Pp. 648. Price 42s. 0d.

This popular handbook has now reached its seventh English edition together with several foreign language editions. The general concept of the book remains the same; a concise clinical handbook to have handy for quick reference in the consulting room, but not one for detailed study in the library. The text has been thoroughly revised and some of the chapters have been rearranged. The chapter on infectious diseases in the sixth edition has been broken down into four shorter chapters in this the seventh, i.e. infectious diseases (a) viral and rickettsial, (b) bacterial and spirochetal, (c) protozoal and metazoal, (d) mycotics.

The chapter on infectious diseases of the CNS has been dispensed with and the relevant parts included in the chapters on infectious diseases. The chapter on laboratory tests has been transferred to the appendix. The appendix has also been extended by the inclusion of tables on time of appearance of epiphyseal ossification centres and CSF in pathological conditions.

This is a most excellent book, it is concise and yet complete. The information is readily available due to the clear layout of the text. It is a good and worthwhile buy.

The will to health. Second edition. HARLEY WILLIAMS. London. Health Horizon Limited. Chest and Heart Association. 1967. Pp. 140. Price 12s. 6d.

There is nothing in this book to recommend it to the attention of a general practitioner, and very little that will be of use to his patients. There are a number of messages for middle-aged misanthropes and, appropriately, a final chapter on death. The opening chapters usher in a crusade with "the will to health" as its slogan and a mixture of faith, introspection and autosuggestion as its ingredients. But very quickly the reader becomes bogged down in a morass of morbid details. It appears that to achieve the salvation brought by your faith in the will-to-live you must first go through processes of stress and pain and suffering, whether it be from a peptic ulcer, coronary thrombosis or chronic bronchitis. Lip-service is paid to preventive medicine, yet, in chapters on these three conditions there is not a single mention of cigarette smoking. In a chapter on self-medication there is confusion between narcotics and tranquillizers. The insomniac should not take a barbiturate, he is told, or he will be less efficient next day than if he had done without sleep. Perhaps he will derive comfort when later he reads that alcohol is a hypnotic and a narcotic, though he will gain no information on his efficiency on the morning after. "Facing an operation" starts off bright and breezy, but when it comes to convalescence we are plunged into the depths of gloom when we are told on page 85 that nothing can shorten this tedious process, that the first estimates of its duration should be doubled. Fortunately, when we turn to page 86 we are assured that the best form of convalescence is to lead a normal life plus a siesta. The conclusion at which one arrives at the end of the chapter on travel is that the believer in the will-to-health ought really to stay at home. This is not a book to be taken seriously.