

A synopsis of otolaryngology. Second edition. JOHN F. SIMPSON, F.R.C.S., IAN G. ROBIN, F.R.C.S., JOHN C. BALLANTYNE, F.R.C.S. and JOHN GROVES, F.R.C.S. Bristol. John Wright & Sons Limited. 1967. Pp. xv + 529. Price 52s. 6d.

In the preface to the first edition one reads that this book "is intended for quick reference and revision, especially by those who are studying for postgraduate examinations in the specialty". With this statement one heartily agrees. Since the first edition was published ten years ago, there has been considerable gain in knowledge of this subject and this is now included in the text which is tabulated under a multiplicity of headings, which can be referred to from an index of 30 pages. This book does not contain descriptions of surgical procedure and technique.

The design of the text makes it an excellent source of reference and revision for one with a certain basic knowledge of the subject, for there is no explanation of such terms as Horner's syndrome, Niemann-Pick disease, cochleo-palpebral reflex, electric potentials, and so on. Nor do diagrams, for example of the tympanum, state whether it is from a right or left ear. It is expected that the reader will be able to make his own interpretation. So this is not a book for the general practitioner, unless he is reading for the D.L.O., in which case it would be of great value, but the section on the Neurology of the Ear, Nose and Throat could be read with advantage by every general practitioner.

This book is a fund of knowledge into which one dips, but cannot read continuously.

International medical guide for ships. Geneva. World Health Organization. 1967. Pp. 404. Price 42s. 0d.

This handsome volume, which includes the Ship's Medicine Chest and the Medical Section of the International Code of Signals, is published both in English and French, and is remarkably well done. The index is good and the printing excellent. The detailed description of what to do in first aid and in general nursing could hardly be improved. The illustration on page 136 of an intramuscular injection is not very convincing as the thumb and first finger of the left hand do not appear to be smoothing out the adjacent skin, as advised in the text. There is also a miscalculation concerned with gallons at the foot of page 38, but apart from these blemishes there can be nothing but praise for this medical guide for a ship's captain faced with disease or injury on board.

The medical annual. Eighty-fifth edition. Edited by SIR RONALD BODLEY SCOTT, K.C.V.O., M.A., D.M., F.R.C.P. and R. MILNES WALKER, C.B.E., M.S., F.R.C.S., F.A.C.S. (Hon.) Bristol. John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1967. Pp. xxiv + 654. Price 52s. 6d.

The eighty-fifth *Medical annual* furnishes its customary survey of the growing points of medicine and surgery. The special articles include an essay "Towards a calculus of medicine" in which the problems connected with the computerization of facts are clearly expounded. Mr J. A. Stallworthy has a fresh look at maternal mortality—a postscript to a success story. The cytological diagnosis of malignant disease is described by Dr A. I. Spriggs. The section on general practice by Drs J. H. Hunt and Michael Linnett deals with acute poisoning and the work load in general practice.

Our favourite annual contains all its usual features.