

devoted a chapter to the subject of psychiatry in general practice. They point out that whether he likes it or not the generalist and the family doctor have to deal with vast numbers of psychiatric problems. In the wide field of psychiatry, these generalists will find here everything they need to know, written in the most acceptable prose, a virtue to be prized in any textbook.

Influences on parent behaviour. LOIS MEEK STOLZ. London. Tavistock Publications. Pp. viii+355. Price 65s.

This is one of the Stanford Studies in Psychology, a university not far from San Francisco. The interest of the book to us is in the presentation of deliberate parent attitudes in a country sharing so much culturally with our own, yet in many fundamental ways divergent from ourselves. The 39 families (78 parents, 111 children) were both hand picked and self selected in the sense that all knew the purpose of the enterprise and co-operated in it. The range of class, race and religious beliefs was a wide one. Parents were interviewed separately and by different interviewers who did not collaborate during the actual enquiry. The project attempted to explore and classify the variety of influences on parent behaviour, not to describe the results of applying such influences. In addition special attention was focused on the social setting of the evening meal, and on the subject of obedience.

This book is loaded with statistical tables, to an extent that the small size of the population scarcely appears to warrant. It is the discussion of the main leanings in interest and consciousness that is interesting to us who are professional parents in this country. The different approaches to similar objectives of mothers and fathers are wide and interesting. The three predominant 'oughts' for parents show up as to educate, to provide emotional security, to control; whereas mothers discussed intelligence, fathers achievement and superiority, mothers' emphasis was on getting along with people, generosity, tolerance, fathers' on education, orderly living, social manners, especially in large families and with the father's increasing age. Independence ranks highest among the fathers' aims. Mothers' discussions naturally appear to be family-orientated, and the fathers' with wider dimensions.

It would appear that the paediatricians' advice is followed closely by the mothers, and that mass media influence them greatly. Advice from the teachers and psychologists is appreciated far less.

The anglo-saxon puritanical, even nonconformist background recurs again and again no matter what the racial origins. This was the flavour that impressed and interested the reviewer on a personal visit, staying in many households a few years ago. This reader began the book reluctantly and became reluctant to stop reading it. Only the children don't seem to be having much fun in these families, where parental control and example loom overpoweringly in theory at least.

Lecture notes on cardiology. First edition. J. S. FLEMING, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.P. and M. V. BRAIMBRIDGE, M.A., M.B., B.CHIR., F.R.C.S. Oxford and Edinburgh. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1967. Pp. 317. Price 35s.

In the past decade several useful but rather similar introductions to cardiology have been published, but this one is different. It is primarily designed for those who wish to widen their interest in cardiology beyond coronary and hypertensive

heart disease, and these diseases are dealt with very briefly for the very good reason that they are fully described in every textbook of medicine. Similarly, electrocardiography has very little space devoted to it and this is to be commended because, although it occupies a disproportionate amount of space in most introductions to cardiology, the value is almost negligible, as it is a subject which demands the full and adequate explanation which can only properly be given in a separate book.

This book is unusual because an adequate amount of the text is devoted to surgery. There is a chapter on general principles of cardiac surgery, and where appropriate there is a section on the special surgery in the treatment of the various cardiac abnormalities. This is most useful as general practitioners are now frequently asked by patients about the pros and cons of surgery. The same general sequence is followed in the description of each cardiac condition: anatomy is followed by an account of the haemodynamic disturbances and the physiological interpretation of symptoms and physical signs; prognosis, treatment, indications for surgery, surgery available and its results follow.

There are many line drawings but no x-ray reproductions.

One of Blackwell's series of Lecture Notes, almost by definition the style is brief and concise, but the total amount of information contained is quite exceptional and it gives the impression that the authors might be persuaded to expand it and fill a gap by producing a British textbook of cardiology.

Clinical diabetes mellitus. First edition. JOHN MALINS, M.D., F.R.C.P. London. Eyre and Spottiswoode. 1968. Pp. xxii + 474. Price £5 5s.

Another 'one-disease' book? Yes, but with a difference, for the condition with which it is concerned is an important aspect of the work of general practice. Patients with diabetes may or may not attend clinics, at long intervals or short depending on their degree of control. Patients with diabetes must remain under the care of a doctor who is able to recognize its earliest stages and who knows when to seek the clinic's help on account of change which he is the first to observe. There is evidence—much of it from studies carried out in general practice—that for every recognized diabetic there is another awaiting discovery. The best and most effective screening programmes are being worked out and a consequence of their operation will be more diabetics who will need supervision and care. Many will be mild but complicated by any or all of the diseases and degenerations which are the general practitioner's stock-in-trade. For these reasons this monograph must be looked at in a different light from that in which large and expensive volumes are usually seen. It can be recommended to practitioners as something to have and to hold and to cherish, with a place on the bookshelf in every staffroom.

The experience on which the book is written derives from the work of the largest diabetic clinic in the United Kingdom, in the conduct of which general practitioners have taken part for two decades and more. From the clinic arose the first major population survey in this country and a continuing programme of research is going on which bridges the gap between the hospital and practices which associate themselves with it. The book itself contains the sum of present-day knowledge, fair accounts of those aspects of clinical diabetes which are at present controversial (including a precise definition of diabetes itself) and informed speculation on the course which work in this field may take in future years. It is all readable narrative—more than can be said for many similar works—and for those who need to use it as a source of references there is an exhaustive