

The family and individual development. D. W. WINNICOTT, F.R.C.P. London. Social Science Paperbacks in association with Tavistock Publications Handbook. 1968. Pp. viii + 181. Price 17s. 6d.

This series of lectures on the problems of the development of the individual within the family are indeed of great interest.

A strange but interesting bottle of wine to be drunk at several sittings, as was obviously intended by the separate lectures, but like a lot of strange but good drinks, it leaves a peculiar taste. It is difficult to define what causes this, but regretfully one comes to the decision that much of the fascinating hypothesis of Freudian concept is still based on speculation—a stimulating and splendid speculation, but unless it is based on reality it will vanish like the taste of a good drink, remaining as a lingering memory of splendid arguments and fiercely held beliefs. No doubt the Freudian conversion would have been complete through the clear and persuasive style of the author but for the jarring discovery of obvious generalizations. Publications appropriating the title 'science' for their series ought not to jolt the learning of the reader so crudely . . . "the psyche of the infant at one year is firmly rooted to the body only at certain times the psyche of the normal infant may lose touch with the body . . ."

A first-rate stimulating book, but perhaps not too helpful to the practitioner, and certainly not easily digested by the lay person for whom the mystique of Freud may claim complete submission with some unsettling and bewildering consequences.

Social casework in general practice. First edition. J. A. S. FORMAN, M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.G.P. and F. M. FAIRBURN, M.A., A.I.M.S.W. London. Oxford University Press (for Nuffield Hospitals Trust). 1968. Pp. 117. Price 12s. 6d.

This exciting and fascinating book is a report on the employment of a medical social worker (MSW) in a partnership practice over a period of three years. No general practitioner could read this account without becoming convinced of the great value of such an attachment, and any one who is in doubt will have their eyes opened if they open these pages—an undoubted *must* for every doctor whose aim is good general practice. The only snag is that there are far too few MSW's to go round when the evident demand becomes recognized.

The price of blood. MICHAEL H. COOPER and ANTHONY J. CULYER. London. The Institute of Economic Affairs. 1968. Pp. 47. Price 6s. 0d.

Blood is a readily transplantable human tissue, and we are inclined to take its availability for granted. The two economists who write this booklet draw attention to the fact that current demands of surgery may result in a crisis in the supply of blood. Their arguments concerning the economics of the Blood Transfusion Service, which lead them to suggest that donors should be paid, may be of little interest to general practitioners. More important is that we must all realize that every patient that we send to hospital in a state of anaemia may result in an unnecessary use of blood transfusion, and a more prolonged stay in hospital than would have been needed if the anaemia had been corrected before admission.
