

disease, and many circulatory disturbances. Oedema is, after all, a common symptom, and can be too superficially regarded. This book will be helpful to those who feel their ignorance in this rapidly developing area of knowledge.

Buildings for general practice. General Practitioner Advisory Service Limited. London. Her Majesty's Stationery Office. 1967. Pp. 36. Price 6s. 9d.

Unfortunately this paperback may prove to be the first and last publication by the General Practitioner Advisory Service Limited, as its future is doubtful. The 36 pages are crammed with a tremendous volume of facts, in small print arranged in double columns, with clear systematized diagrams of general practice function.

Reading through these concentrated pages, is a 'crash course' for any general practitioner wishing to reassess his own organization and building. No architect being briefed by practitioner could do without it. Dr G. A. Adams, the director of the General Practitioners Advisory Service Limited has produced a distillate of his work and experience based on the many organizational studies supported by Nuffield and Ministry of Health. A first-rate job.

It is a trifle frightening to find everything brought down to black or white, 'so many square feet', 'so many sessions', 'so many patients', 'so many minutes', 'so many examinations undressed', 'so many weighings' and 'so many this and that'. However the feeling of inadequacy engendered in the reader is perhaps only because he has never really analysed his movements and his secretary's actions, having regarded his own outfit as the natural outcome of successful practice. Yet, after ploughing through the small print, the feeling of incompetence creeps up nastily, and a re-appraisal will have to start on Monday in the light of all the skittled fond concepts and ideas which allowed one to jog on comfortably and muddle through.

Still in the face of such obvious competence and authority one would quarrel with the 'rack for repeat prescriptions', and the indicated need 'that if the patient brought a bottle labelled "N.P."' this would constitute his rightful claim for a further script. Surely the medical record must be consulted by the secretary to find out if the doctor has indicated that he wishes to see the patient before a repeat prescription is sound. Even the doctor signing this may wrongly assume the record has been consulted.

Minor improvements for the next edition, which is inevitable, might be that not only English and Welsh Regulations and E.C.N. be quoted, but the equivalent Northern Irish and Scottish ones added. However, these minor niggles are completely lost in the praise of the accumulation of factual knowledge between these covers adding a most useful companion volume to the earlier publication of the Design Guide for Medical Group Practices (obtainable from the Royal College of General Practitioners) which discusses and reasons the facts collected and goes into some greater detail of alterations and fittings.

Treatment of common acute poisonings. First edition. H. MATTHEW, M.D., F.R.C.P. and A. A. H. LAWSON, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.P. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1967, Pp. viii+151. Price 16s. 0d.

Acute barbiturate poisoning. S. J. LOENNECKEN. Bristol. John Wright and Sons Limited. 1967, Pp. ix+78. Price 17s. 6d.

Acute poisoning has become a common emergency accounting for nearly ten per cent of all medical admissions to many general hospitals. Modern treatment

is more effective than formerly and it is important that the patient should be cared for expertly from the earliest moment possible.

Concise and easy of reference, the first book reviewed here is written by physicians actively engaged in this field of medicine, and it shows an excellent sense of proportion. A practical, clinical approach is preserved. Treatment is not thought to end with the physical recovery of the patient, and the psychological background which may have led to a suicidal attempt is kept in view. The proper transport of a patient (on his side, not on his back), the treating of shock and asphyxia, prevention of further absorption, general care, common errors in treatment, diuresis and dialysis, psychiatric treatment, barbiturates, salicylates, anti-depressants, tranquillizers, snake-bite, fungi, pesticides, prevention—these titles and others represent the wide scope of this handy and excellent book. It is strongly recommended.

The second book is a translation from the German edition and the original style comes through only too clearly. It has two main defects: first a tendency to use too many words, and secondly a passion for classification which does not always serve the subject well.

Anaesthesia and resuscitation. A Manual for Medical Students. Edited by R. A. GORDON, C.D., B.SC., M.D., F.R.C.P.(C), F.F.A.R.C.S. Toronto. University Press. London, Oxford University Press. 1967. Pp. x+179. Price 24s. 0d.

This is an excellent manual for the beginner in anaesthesia, and its editor and contributors are to be congratulated upon it. It is well balanced and well written and your reviewer commends it to those for whom it is intended.

The effects of abnormal physical conditions at work. C. N. DAVIES, D.SC., F.INST.P., P. R. DAVIS, PH.D., M.B., B.S., F.INST.BIOL., F. H. TYRER, M.A., M.R.C.S., D.I.H. London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1967, Pp. viii+185. Price 21s. 0d.

How does a man work when he is hot, or cold, or under increased atmospheric pressure? Some attempts to answer the question were made at a conference organized jointly by the British Occupational Hygiene Society, the Ergonomics Research Society and the Society of Occupational Medicine. The lessons learned in military exercises where troops are flown from one climate to another and those of expeditions to inhospitable climates, from arid desert to antarctic ice, are brought together by experts in a valuable symposium report which is not without relevance to the affairs of ordinary practice.

Hypothermia is met with in general practice as well as among survivors of shipwreck. Heat exhaustion, though rare, can occur during an English summer or be met with by a practitioner abroad. Of interest, too, is the account of the disturbance of bodily rhythms, dependent on the personal time-clock, experienced by air travellers who move from one time zone to another. Those who have travelled thus will be aware of the curious disorientation sensations which can be felt, but are hard to describe. Aircrew must experience these disturbances frequently and knowledge of how to adapt and adjust most easily is badly needed.

The practitioner with an interest in industrial medicine will find useful discus-