

Second conference on the use of audio tape in medical education. Edited by JOHN and VALERIE GRAVES.

Thanks to Drs John and Valerie Graves and the Medical Recording Service, The Royal College of General Practitioners has been a pioneer of the use of tape for teaching. On the tenth anniversary of the Medical Recording Service the second conference on the use of tape in medical teaching was held at Chelmsford. It was attended by men and women from many of the health professions, most of them actively engaged in either producing tapes for teaching or in using them. Sir Edward Wayne was in the chair.

The conference was divided into three sessions:
 How tape is being used now;
 Can we improve and extend the use of tape?
 How can we assess the effectiveness of tape?

One of the advantages of tape is demonstrated by this publication itself. The discussion after the papers was recorded and is given in detail; I found this part of the conference even more interesting than the papers themselves. A conference attended by such strong personalities could not fail to produce such a good discussion.

It is a pity that the chairman marred his summing up by repeating some old clichés about general practice. Do people still really believe that general practitioners are from the bottom of the barrel and consultants from the top? and why shouldn't general practitioners learn how to read electrocardiographs? Are they not supposed to be clinicians?

Diseases of children. Second edition. HUGH JOLLY, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., D.C.H. Oxford and Edinburgh. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1968. Pp. xii + 752. Price 63s.

This is a textbook in the traditional manner, deriving more from Boyd and Conybeare than from Price and Osler. Dr Jolly has a plain unvarnished tale to tell, and does it in a style that is economical and lucid—his wide and varied experience is constantly apparent, and there is much evidence of an incisive shrewdness learnt, no doubt, in this hard school.

This new edition includes sections on cot death and the battered baby syndrome, as well as school phobia and truancy, but it is rather depressing to find that the causes of the first are as shrouded in mystery as ever. Due weight is given to the common diseases of childhood, and the chapters on normal development and neonatal disease are especially valuable—the photographs are quite splendid.

It is interesting to note once again the difference in thought and experience between consultant and general practitioner. How many generalists would agree that acute appendicitis is 'an extremely common condition' of children? How many that a six-day course of oestrogens is sufficient for the suppression of lactation? On the domiciliary management of childhood diseases, too, his counsels are those of perfection, and would bring a wry smile to the face of many hard-pressed general practitioners. Yet it is fitting—in a textbook designed to be read by students—that high ideals, however unattainable, should be set as targets.

This is an elegant book, beautifully set up and illustrated, well indexed and cross-referenced, and excellent value for money. It certainly merits a place in the library of the family doctor, and its down-to-earth realism and commonsense must come as a breath of fresh air to the senior student crammed, perhaps, with distressful didacticism. Works of this calibre are few and far between, and it is

safe to predict that this book, now in its second edition, will run to many more, for what more can one ask of any textbook than that it should be authoritative, lucid—and entertaining?

Myocardial infarction. Proceedings of the ninth conference of the International Society of Geographical Pathology. Published on behalf of the directing committee of the Society by Prof. J. R. RUTTNER. S. Karger, Basel (Switzerland) and New York. 1967. Pp. 320. Price £6 17s. 6d.

The International Society of Geographical Pathology was founded in Geneva in 1931 with the object of conducting systematic investigations into the "Panorama of disease" and into the peculiarity of their symptoms in different regions of the world. Pathologists and clinicians all over the world have contributed to provide simultaneous uniform investigations into the relationship of climate, customs, social development, and so forth, in this case, to the incidence of myocardial infarction. This inquiry began in 1963 and the size of the task can be judged from the fact that the section on the frequency of myocardial infarction includes an analysis of 105,000 autopsies.

The book is composed of 46 separate papers and is divided into three parts. The first is concerned with the incidence in different parts of the world; the second with biochemistry and pathology, and the third with epidemiology. The second part contains 20 papers. Cholesterol metabolism, physical activity, platelets, lymphatics and anatomical anomalies of the coronary arteries are a few of the subjects critically analysed.

It is stated in the section on epidemiology that methods of diagnosis have been so much improved in recent years that it is not valid to compare statistics relating to the period before 1958 with those of the present day, and for this reason it is difficult to decide whether the increase in morbidity and mortality is apparent or real. Some of the papers describe investigations into the incidence of myocardial infarction of a kind which might be undertaken by members of the College and this book should be studied before embarking on such a course.

A short textbook of orthopaedics and traumatology. J. N. ASTON, M.B., F.R.C.S. London. The English University Press Limited. 1967. Pp. viii + 307. Price 27s. 6d. paper back; 40s. library edition.

The reviewer's first reaction on reading this excellent book was to wish that it had been in existence 20 years ago, when as a student he struggled with the complexities of orthopaedics. It is concisely and succinctly written and a joy to read while the line drawings are clear and self explanatory. Medical students and general practitioners will find this book invaluable. It is indeed wise to include the subject of traumatology in its widest sense, so that the students realize that accident surgery enhances all surgical disciplines. Nevertheless, three pages are too short to deal with the difficult and important subject of chest injuries. The teaching of first aid to students is usually absent and an enlarged section on the management of these serious injuries at the site of occurrence would enhance the value of a future edition of this book.

The care of radiation casualties. First edition. J. BLAKELY, M.D., D.P.H., D.I.H London. W. Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1968. Pp. viii + 139. Price 30s. 0d.

This book is one of a series of monographs published by Heinemann. The title may suggest holocausts, like Hiroshima or Nagasaki, but as the author points out, with the considerable increase in the amount of radio-activity in