

clear view of the cervix since adopting this method.

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The more the patient is turned over, the more easily is the cervix seen. James Marion Sims dealing with vesico-vaginal fistulae over a hundred years ago found that insertion of only a single-bladed speculum with the patient in the genupectoral position gave a remarkable view of the cervix and upper vagina. EDITOR.

Book Reviews

Medical aspects of fitness to drive vehicles. Edited by LESLIE G. NORMAN. London. Report by the Medical Commission on Accident Prevention. 1968. Pp. 52. Price 5s. 0d.

The Medical Commission on Accident Prevention was formed in 1964 with the main purpose of forming "a permanent medical commission" as a recognized authority for advice on medical matters in relation to the prevention of accidents. One of the purposes of the commission is to produce reports on various aspects of safety in relation to medicine. This short booklet is the first of such a series. General practitioners are constantly being asked advice on the fitness of patients to drive a motor vehicle and medical examination of the elderly before insurance cover is renewed is becoming more frequent. One is often presented with problems to which the answers are not easily found in the textbooks. This booklet fills this need extremely well and the reader would suggest that it should be on every general practitioner's desk as a ready handbook for reference. A distinguished panel of experts have contributed and the advice they give is uniformly practical without being dogmatic. The layout is excellent, with a discussion of the pathological conditions, system by system that may affect driving. There is a summary at the end of each chapter of suggestions for advice to patients. There are also excellent chapters on fatigue, boredom and ageing and an appendix on unwanted dangerous interactions between drugs. This is indeed a most valuable document and should be read by every general practitioner.

The basic fault. Therapeutic aspects of regression. MICHAEL BALINT, M.D., Ph.D., M.Sc. London. Tavistock Publications. 1968. Pp. vii + 205. Price 38s. 0d.

The name of Michael Balint is familiar to general practitioners as the author of *The doctor, his patient, and the illness*, a book which has given many a new understanding of their patients' emotional problems and of their own involvement in them. Family doctors must be warned that this is a book of a different nature, written by a practising psychoanalyst and addressed primarily to other analysts. It will not be easily comprehensible to the family doctor who is not familiar with the language of Freud, and terms such as Oedipus situation, regression, narcissism, transference, ego, id and superego.

In this book Dr Balint coins a new term, 'the basic fault,' for a primitive area