

**Handbook of medical treatment.** Eleventh edition. MILTON J. CHATTON, M.D., SHELDON MARGEN, M.D. and HENRY BRAINERD, M.D. Los Altos. California. Lange Medical Publications. Oxford and Edinburgh. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1968. Pp. 769. Price £2 10s. 0d.

Condensed into 769 pages are details of the treatment of practically every known disease. Throughout the authors and editors have stuck to an authoritarian American approach. In many instances the reviewer found it difficult to identify drugs referred to, even though both official and proprietary names are given, as the American names are often different from those used in Britain. A new edition appears every two years. This is made possible by the lithographic method of printing. (The book resembles a type-written article, rather than the usual appearance of print). It is doubtful whether the ordinary general practitioner will need each new edition; the purchase of an up-to-date edition every four to six years will suffice for most. The handbook is a very useful desk and car reference. The reviewer's wish is that an enterprising publisher in this country would arrange a version written for the British doctor.

**Antibiotic and chemotherapy.** Second edition. LAWRENCE P. GARROD, M.D.Hon., LL.D., F.R.C.P. and FRANCIS O'GRADY, M.D., M.Sc., M.C.Path. Edinburgh & London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1968. Pp. viii+475. Price £2 10s.

This book is in two main sections. The first describes the individual antimicrobial drugs in detail, while the second deals with practical aspects of treatment under various clinical headings. The latter section gives much useful advice on what drugs are most likely to help where treatment is to be started before bacterial isolation and sensitivity tests are performed or available.

The final chapter on Laboratory Control is, in its details, of interest only to the more scientifically-minded clinician but it does give a good indication of the limitations, complexity and difficulty of some of the tests which the laboratory workers are (sometimes rather casually) asked to perform. Controversial subjects, such as the safety of chloramphenicol, are dealt with in detail with numerous and up-to-date references.

Not a book for the general practitioner's bookshelf—rather for his desk.

**Auscultation of the heart.** Third edition. R. W. D. TURNER, O.B.E., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.P.E. Edinburgh and London. E. and S. Livingstone Ltd. 1968. Pp. vi+53. Price 6s.

This little book, first published in 1963, has now reached the third edition, which is an indication that it has supplied a demand. Advances in cardiac surgery have demanded greater precision in diagnosis and auscultation of the heart has received its due attention assisted by the use of phonocardiographic records which could be studied at leisure. Dr Turner has made a useful contribution to the art of auscultation and urges greater uniformity in teaching to avoid ambiguity. The reader is instructed in the choice of stethoscope and technique of auscultation, and this is followed by descriptions of heart sounds, valvular and otherwise, in health and disease, their location, timing, diagnosis and differential diagnosis. To read the book carefully and then to examine hearts with the concentration demanded by the author must inevitably result in greatly improved technique and appreciation.