to be of much value to the general practitioner unless he has a special interest in this rather high-powered and limited field.

Foot and ankle pain. RENE CAILLIET, M.D. Philadelphia. F. A. Davies Company. 1968. Pp. ix + 148. Price 28s. 0d.

This is a stiff paperback which describes in simple terms the anatomy of each part of the foot and ankle and the stresses and strains to which the various components may be subjected. Separate chapters are devoted to the walking foot; congenital abnormalities; painful disorders of the foot, heel and toes; injuries to the ankle and neurological and dermatological conditions. There are many excellent black and white diagrams to illustrate the text. This book spans several disciplines and is yet simple and concise and thus most suitable for the general practitioner. It is worth buying to read and then keep for future reference.

An international study of health expenditure and its relevance for health planning. BRIAN ABEL-SMITH. London. World Health Organization. 1967. Pp. 127. 12s. 0d.

Professor Brian Abel-Smith of the London School of Economics was commissioned by the World Health Organization to investigate the relative amounts spent on health by the developed and under-developed countries. A considerable amount of information is presented in 33 tables. Most of the information is of interest only to those involved in the overall organization of health at national and international levels. Much of the information which would have been of interest to those in ordinary practice is not available because many countries were unable to provide comparable data.

" The proportion of gross national product devoted to health services varied from 2.5 to 6.3 per cent. There was a tendency for countries with relatively high standards of living to spend higher proportions of their resources on health services than those with relatively low standards of living ". The facts to back this up are well documented in this small booklet which is worthy of a place in the library of any department of general practice though probably not on the shelf of an individual general practitioner.

Elements of medical genetics. First English edition. PROFESSOR ALAN E. H. EMERY, M.D., M.Sc., Ph.D., M.R.C.P. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1968. Pp. ix+247. Price 35s. 0d.

Professor Emery has written a valuable small book covering fully the medical aspects of genetics. There is a good historical section and the numerous diagrams are carefully thought out. The whole work has been designed to be understood by readers who are not experts in genetics. A good glossary covers all technical terms. Such recent ideas as the problems raised by the genetic variations in drug responses, and the mysteries of immunology and tissue rejection, are explained in simple language, with clinical applications always in mind. A chapter is devoted to " Genetics and the physician ", and we are invited to join Professor Emery in the pleasures of speculation on future developments within this already formidable science.

Surely the dullest among us, after reading this beautifully produced little volume, must kindle and enjoy our routine of practice the more. The general practitioner, so far from being left behind by this rising tide of knowledge, finds himself so situated as to be in the very front of advanced medical research in a subject that will increasingly dominate medicine and surgery in the next decade.

Professor Emery pays tribute to the valuable diabetic research carried out by

The Royal College of General Practitioners. As time passes, individual doctors will make many contributions to the challenging problems posed by human evolutionary genetics and their close relationships to common illness. The subject, still unfamiliar in its academic dress, is as old as medicine itself. Patients have always brought to their doctors difficulties and diseases involving environment and heredity, and they have done so because the layman well knows that these are the strands that play an important part in conditioning disease.

Over the years the doctor has proved himself a wise adviser and a trusted friend. He is a continuing and increasingly enlightened counsellor, and books like this are of very great value to him.

Nelson and his surgeons. Compiled and edited by P. D. GORDON PUGH, *O.B.E.*, F.R.C.S. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1968. Pp. 68. Price 30s. cloth cover. 15s. paperback.

This is a copiously illustrated book based on an exhibition held at the Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar. The legend of Nelson is of perennial interest. Here are presented in a short readable form, the essential facts of his surgical misadventures. There is much of interest concerning the practice of surgery and in particular the practice of the naval surgeon in the years leading up to 1805. A paperback of this class at 15s. is extraordinarily good value.

A synopsis of endocrinology and metabolism. DAVID G. FERRIMAN, D.M., F.R.C.P., and IAN C. GILLILAND, M.D., F.R.C.P. Bristol. John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1968. Pp. viii+159. Price 30s. 0d.

This is a very deceptive-looking book. It is a slim volume of some 160 pages, and would appear to be soon read; in fact it is so concise, condensed and absorbing that it makes long reading. Endocrinology is a vast and ever expanding field, and the authors claim only to be presenting a framework of the subject and advise reference to major textbooks where more detail is required. No bibliography is provided although this is understandable since it would need to be so vast, but the titles of a few major textbooks would be useful. The book certainly is only a framework with broad outlines of the subject being given with very little detail. The book is written in note form, with a few diagrams, it is clearly set out and facts are easily extracted. The index is complete and quite adequate for reference purposes. In the preface the authors comment on the rapid developments taking place in the field of endocrinology. They have, however, consulted a wide range of experts in preparing the book so that it should be accurate and up to date.

This is a useful book, well worth 30 shillings.

PAMPHLETS RECEIVED

Exercise tests in relation to cardiovascular function. World Health Organization Technical Report Series No. 388. Geneva. WHO. 1968. Pp. 30. Price 4s. 0d.

Your baby and your figure. Third edition. Revised by LOIS P. BURNS, M.C.S.P. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1968. Pp. 20. Price 2s. 6d.

Kings Fund College of Hospital Management. Programme of courses 1968-69. London. King Edward's Hospital Fund for London. 1968.

Livingstone Books 1968. A complete catalogue of books and journals. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd.