

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.
