

pointing as irreparable damage may have been done to the brain before the disorder is recognized". In these days of nation-wide screening of infants this remark seems hardly justified.

Keeping abreast of major advances is a major problem in textbooks of this size—particularly in the field of therapeutics. This problem has been met successfully by the expedient of adding a supplement (64 pp.) in this revised edition, leaving the original text unchanged from the 1965 edition. There is an adequate index and an up-to-date list of references at the end of the main volume, but the supplement is not indexed nor are any references given for the matter in it. However, it retains the chapter lay-out of the main volume, so that there is no great difficulty in finding one's way about. The general lay-out and production is attractive and the volume is reasonably priced. General practitioners should find it a valuable source of reference.

**Hutchison's clinical methods.** Fifteenth edition.

DONALD HUNTER, *C.B.E.*, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P., and R. R. BOMFORD, *C.B.E.*, D.M., F.R.C.P. Revised with the assistance of D. G. PENINGTON, M.A., B.M., B.Ch., M.R.C.P. London. Baillière, Tindall and Cassell. 1968. Pp. 404. Price 20s.

The fifteenth edition of this well-known students *vade mecum* fully maintains the excellence and value of its predecessors published since 1897, and has indeed improved in the sense that much redundant material has been pruned. Revision has brought the material more up to date and there is a new chapter on the clinical assessment of metabolic disorders. Sections on examination of the eye and clinical examination of children have been rewritten and there is a new section on hearing and tests of auditory and vestibular functions. The photographs have also been revised.

For the medical student entering the clinical phase of his career, this book should be an essential part of his library, as sound clinical method is still the cornerstone of good medical practice. For the experienced practitioner also, the book should be on his bookshelf as a valuable means of reference.

The case-taking section has been improved by judicious pruning. The other sections follow the familiar pattern and there are useful diagrams showing the relation of heart murmurs to the cardiac cycle. A brief section on electrocardiography has been introduced and should be found useful.

The section on the nervous system is longer and rather detailed, but contains one fault in that figure 57 has the letters A and B transposed in error.

If one had to criticize such an excellent book it would be to remark on the omission of some of the more recent simple laboratory aids, such as

certain of the dip-stick biochemical tests, the use of the Grey Wedge Photometer, the Wright Peak Flow Meter, and the taking of cervical smears. The description of these and other recent tests would have added to the completeness of the last chapter.

**The medical annual.** Eighty-sixth edition. Edited by SIR RONALD BODLEY SCOTT, *K.C.V.O.*, M.A., D.M., F.R.C.P. and R. MILNES WALKER, *C.B.E.*, M.S., F.R.C.S., F.A.C.S.(HON.). Bristol. John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1968. Pp. xxxvii+614. Price £3 3s.

The new volume of the *Medical Annual* is quite up to the standard of those which have gone before and this says much for it. The special article on a mobile intensive care unit in myocardial infarction will be of interest to all practitioners. Other special articles concern recurrent pyogenic cholangitis and immunity in malignant disease. The article on injuries of the hand will be of interest to general practitioners whose problem often is how far should they carry the treatment themselves, and when should they seek specialist advice. Drs John Hunt and Michael Linnett again contribute a section on general practice, dealing with screening, with epilepsy and concluding with a few notes on other matters of interest.

**The principles and practice of medicine.** Ninth edition. Edited by SIR STANLEY DAVIDSON, B.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., LL.D., F.R.S.E. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1968. Pp. xv+1341. Price £2 5s.

New editions of this standard textbook appear on average every two years. One of the factors which makes this book so attractive is that each edition is thoroughly revised. This edition has had the same careful treatment as its predecessors.

**Physician's handbook.** Fifteenth edition. MARCUS A. KRUPP, M.D., NORMAN J. SWEET, M.D., ERNEST JAWETZ, Ph.D., M.D., and EDWARD G. BIGLIERI, M.D., California. Lange Medical Publications. Oxford and Edinburgh. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1968. Pp. 639. Price \$5.00. 45s. 0d.

The fifteenth edition of this handbook since 1941 is sufficient testimony to its popularity. Between its soft covers is a vast store of information on diagnostic procedures and therapeutics. No aspect of clinical examination is omitted. All the more common laboratory investigations are fully described, normal and abnormal values are listed in great detail and the interpretation of all the tests is explained. Chapters are devoted to a wide range of subjects, electrocardiography, chemical analysis of blood and urine, puncture fluids examination, skin tests, diet, fluid and electrolyte balance, etc. Drugs and hormones are