

have discouraged many. Yet the impetus is not flagging; more and more practitioners are seeing in research some degree of fulfilment. This is true particularly in this country and in Holland as is evidenced in this book by the list of published papers. There is also an upsurge of interest in Australia, New Zealand and Canada. This book will in time fulfil a most urgent need in giving those who are interested an adequate background.

**The young handicapped child.** Second edition. AGATHA H. BOWLEY, Ph.D., F.B.Psy.S. and LESLIE GARDNER, B.Sc., Dip.Ed., Dip. Psych. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1969. Pp. x+167. Price 30s. 0d.

This is a book for non-specialists and lay people, who work with handicapped children; it is also designed for reading by the parents of these children.

Four large groups of handicap are dealt with, the young cerebral palsied child, the young deaf child, the young blind child, and a new addition for the second edition of the book, the young autistic child. Each chapter follows the same broad outline, discussing the incidence of the condition, its medical background, and a more detailed section on how to handle the child in its growing years, dealing with such matters as schooling and emotional development.

Throughout the book, the importance of the family unit and the need to integrate the handicapped child into it is stressed. It is important to remember that although these children have a handicap, such as deafness, they are in other respects normal, and as far as their handicap allows their normal functions must be allowed natural development; these children will one day become adults and as far as possible must make their own way in the world; it is important that residual skills are fully developed.

This book will be of value to those who are involved in the care of handicapped children, it will also be of use for recommendation to parents of handicapped children.

**A short textbook of medicine.** Third edition. J. C. HOUSTON, M.D., F.R.C.P. C. L. JOINER, M.D., F.R.C.P. and J. R. TROUNCE, M.D., F.R.C.P. London. The English Universities Press Ltd. 1968. Pp. 588. Price 30s. 0d.

This is a complete textbook of medicine written by three Guy's Hospital consultants. Its main feature is that it covers the whole field of medicine in under 600 pages at a cost of just 30s. It is well balanced and in general reflects accurately

the trends of modern medicine—for example, nearly ten per cent is occupied by a well written section on psychiatry, a most interesting feature of which is the reference to the legal implications of psychiatric illness. There is, however, relatively little reference to the prevention of disease, which many general practitioners now regard as an important part of their work.

It is understandable in a book ranging over the whole field of medicine that in an effort to be concise it should occasionally tend to be dogmatic, and there are statements here and there which will not be widely acceptable. For example, the treatment of infantile whooping cough with chloramphenicol is not universally recognized, and not all personal doctors will agree with Dr Stafford Clark's opinion that termination of pregnancy on psychiatric grounds can never be justified on purely sociological or personal grounds, nor even in the case of severe depression with the open threat of suicide.

Furthermore, it is unavoidable, even in a newly published book, that there should be statements which are already out of date, owing to the rapid advance in medical care. The use of two separate measles vaccines, for example, is not now standard practice in this country, and the description of infective hepatitis omits to mention that this disease has recently become notifiable.

Criticism might be made, however, of the fact that all too often the incidence of the various conditions described is not given. When such figures are given, they are sometimes written in unrealistic detail—for example, schizophrenia is recorded as having an incidence of "about 0.85 per cent".

Despite these minor criticisms, however, this book represents quite outstanding value for money and can be recommended to any general practitioner who wishes to buy a short, up-to-date textbook of medicine.

**Lecture notes on diseases of the ear, nose and throat.** Second edition. E. H. MILES FOXEN, F.R.C.S., D.L.O. Oxford and Edinburgh. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1968. Pp. x+214. Price 25s. 0d.

These lecture notes will be useful to the general practitioner not only for reference but also to improve the technique of the physical examination he makes. They must be invaluable to the student and the houseman, for they are clear, comprehensive and fully illustrated. The inclusion of the relevant questions set in the finals in surgery is most stimulating, and your reviewer's only complaint is that he was more than momentarily puzzled by 'brofisis' on page 173.