the author usually makes a plain statement of his own views, the opinions of other workers are mentioned, and he includes a list of 158 references to relevant literature which enables the serious worker to delve further into controversial points. Many readers, not excluding the writers of some books on electrocardiography, will be surprised at the close attention to detail and the precise measurements which are necessary to elucidate some of the problems.

It is usually possible to find minor faults in any book, especially a first edition. Almost identical sentences are occasionally repeated (for example, see page 1) and 'clearly' and 'of course' are rather overworked. The manner of presentation results in repetition and discontinuity. The too frequent reference to subsequent chapters for further information interrupts our search and train of thought. The study of some electrocardiograms requires the reproduction of long continuous strips and no publisher appears to have evolved a satisfactory way of doing this; perhaps a few large pages folded on themselves as maps are in other books would be adequate. However, these are minor and personal criticisms of an important and valuable contribution to a better understanding of cardiac arrhythmias.

It is an essential book for doctors using their own electrocardiographs, and also contains much that should be read by any practising doctor. The chapters on management and treatment are important, and one would like to see the chapter on digitalis intoxication reproduced for wider circulation.

Illustrated manual of laboratory diagnosis. Indications and interpretations. R. DOUGLAS COLLINS, M.D. Philadelphia. J. B. Lippincott Co. London. Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. 1968. Pp. xv+299. Price £10 10s. 0d.

The outstanding feature of this transatlantic publication is the extensive use of coloured diagrams to illustrate the biochemical changes in disease states where laboratory tests can be of help. These illustrations (nearly 200) are outstanding for their detail, their clarity, and their aesthetic appeal, enabling quite complex clinical conditions to be explained in a few lines of text.

The diagrams are standardized for each system on the basis of normal physiology and biochemical findings. Additional non-illustrated sections include those on "The laboratory diagnosis of infectious diseases" and on the 'work-up' of symptoms and of suspected disease states.

The approach throughout the book is from the viewpoint of the practising clinician and technical details of laboratory procedures are not included. The author is a strong advocate of the increased use of the laboratory in diagnosis and even of a routine 'battery' of tests on hospital admissions. He stresses, however, the need for a critical attitude to laboratory findings in isolation which do not accord with the clinical evidence, and even gives some tips on assessing the reliability of a particular laboratory.

This is an attractive manual, a pleasure to handle and to read. Its only disadvantage appears to be its high price—perhaps inevitable in view of the extensive use of colour illustrations. Even if this deters some practitioners it would be a most useful addition to the library of any local hospital or medical society, or even to that of a group practice.

Lectures in medicine. Second edition. C. W. H. HAVARD, M.A., D.M., M.R.C.P. London. Staples Press. 1969. Pp. xiv+399. Price £3 10s. 0d.

The second edition of this book follows the first within 12 months therefore the author can rightly claim, as he does in his preface, that his aim is "to review recent advances in medicine and modern concepts of the nature of disease . . .".

The book is a collection of a series of lectures delivered to first-year medical students. The subjects chosen tend to be in a clinical no-man's land falling in areas not claimed as theirs by the general specialist, and falling outside the scope of general textbooks. Four chapters contained in the first edition have been omitted, the rest have been revised and rewritten. Those chapters left out have made way for new ones on more recent topics such as medical aspects of transplantation, a subject well to the fore in medical thought and discussion today. The text contains no references, but at the rear of the book suggestions for further reading are listed chapter-wise.

This is a most useful book for the student and the non-specialist filling as it does, gaps left in the standard texts. A book of this type must be hard work for its author since it needs constant revision, he must also be ruthless in his exclusion of subjects as they pass into the standard works. Dr Havard has got off to an excellent start.

New editions

Pediatrics. Fourteenth edition. HENRY L. BARNETT, M.D., ARNOLD H. EINHORN, M.D. New York. Butterworths. 1968. Pp. xxv+1847. Price £10 15s. 0d.

The original Holt's *Diseases of infancy and childhood* first appeared in 1896. This, the fourteenth edition, is the second to appear under its new and abbreviated title. It has also, according to the editor in his preface, been almost entirely rewritten to bring it into line with new trends in child health services in the United States. The psychological, physiological and biochemical aspects of children's diseases are discussed, as well as the clinical.

Like all encyclopaedic textbooks it is easy to