

**Diabetes, coronary thrombosis and the saccharine disease.** Second edition. T. L. CLEAVE, M.R.C.P., and G. D. CAMPBELL, M.D., F.R.C.P., with the assistance of N. S. PAINTER, M.S., F.R.C.S. Bristol. John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1969. Pp. 162. Price 21s. 0d.

This is largely the first edition, slightly amended with some additional sections.

The main thesis of this book is that many of the diseases that afflict western man result from a diet containing abnormal amounts of refined carbohydrates. The diseases which are believed to be involved include, varicose veins, haemorrhoids, peptic ulcer, coronary artery disease, diabetes and possibly other conditions associated with *Eserichic coli* infections. No one would read this book expecting to find an hypothesis expressed in classical Baconian terms. However, if read simply as a presentation of a conjecture which will make every reader rethink his views and attitudes to these diseases, no one will feel that he has spent a guinea unnecessarily.

**Diseases of the nose, throat and ear.** Ninth edition. I. SIMSON HALL, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., and BERNARD H. COLMAN, M.A., Ch.M., F.R.C.S. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1969. Pp. xii+443. Price 35s. 0d.

The appearance of a ninth edition of this very practical book is a proof of its continuing success as an introduction to otorhinolaryngology for the undergraduate and as a quick reference book for the busy general practitioner. Its format is logical and clear, the book being divided into chapters which are grouped in sections on the nose, nasal accessory sinuses, pharynx, larynx, endoscopy and the ear. Most sections start with an introduction on anatomy and physiology and the whole book begins with a brief practical description of examinations, equipment, and methods of use of instruments.

This edition has been revised and brought up to date and new illustrations have been introduced.

The book deals in simple straightforward but rather didactic language with the majority of common conditions that one may meet but it does not enter into detailed discussion of these or of the rarer diseases for which reference to larger volumes must be made. One forms the opinion, after reading this book, that it may be oversimplified, although this is a good fault in an introductory handbook. For example, the paragraphs on treatment could, with value, be enlarged a little. In the treatment of Bell's palsy the authors mention that ACTH must be given urgently, but no details of dosage and duration of treatment is given. A similar brevity on treatment is used throughout the book. Again, in the treatment of rhinoscleroma one is informed that streptomycin is specific but no detail is given

regarding the dosage of antibiotic. In the last chapter a few pages are reserved for general discussion on chemotherapy of infection and simple details of dosage are given here. Finally, there is a useful appendix containing various prescriptions.

This book can be recommended for the general practitioner's bookshelf.

**May's manual of diseases of the eye.** Twenty-fourth edition. Edited by JAMES H. ALLEN, M.D. Baltimore. The Williams & Wilkins Company. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1968. Pp. x+430. Price £4 10s. 0d.

This book has now reached its 24th edition, and so if nothing else, it can be said that it has stood the test of time. The first edition was published in 1900 and since then it has been translated into nine different languages and some of these translations have gone into several editions. In 1900 Dr May set out to write a systematic manual of ophthalmology for use by students and general practitioners. Common conditions such as glaucoma were given detailed coverage, but less common and rare conditions got little more than a mention. The 24th edition, produced under the direction of Dr James Allen, retains the same basic approach, but needless to say, times change and knowledge advances and so the manual has needed revision. One completely new section has been added to the chapter on ocular therapeutics, dealing with the local effects upon the eye of general medication. Another new innovation is the collection of all the colour plates into one section in the centre of the book. This causes no inconvenience since each plate has more than one reference to it, and so page turning is not increased.

It is difficult to find fault with this book, but there are a few deficiencies in the index, *e.g.*, Tyndall's phenomena is mentioned in the chapter on the uvea, reference to the index fails to find any reference to the phenomena, hence one cannot find out even what it is. There are also occasional errors in reference numbers to figures and colour plates.

This is a very nicely produced book, and it can be thoroughly recommended, as a good buy, for any medical student or general practitioner.

**Minor surgery.** DAVID KYLE, M.A., M.B., B.Chir., L.M.S.S.A. London. Butterworths. 1968. Pp. vii + 323. Price £3 15s.

In days gone by there could be found in every sizeable town a general practitioner who, by consent of his colleagues, was known to be competent to deal with all ordinary surgery and with fractures; he was also a very good opinion in a medical emergency and would give a helping hand in difficult obstetrics. David Kyle is evidently in this tradition but here restricts himself to minor surgery and first-aid surgery only. "The inside of