

who should be and are not; and that in particular, study should be made of the comparative costs of referral and treatment of cases found by screening, and those which arise from normal consultation. The motives of those with symptoms who choose this method of diagnosis should also be examined.

**Geriatrics and the general-practitioner team.**

M. K. THOMPSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G., M.R.C.G.P. London. Baillière, Tindall and Cassell. 1969. Pp.ix+127. Price £1.

This is a short, useful and very readable book which has been modified from the scripts which the author used for a series of tape-recordings for the Medical Recording Service of the Royal College of General Practitioners.

The handbook does not provide a systematic review of diseases in detail as they affect the older person but is rather a collection of essays. The chapters include material on examining the elderly patient, the mind in old age, vision and hearing, cerebral syndromes in the elderly, accident hazards, incontinence, pressure sores and heart disease in old age, and the end of life. There is a particularly useful section on the general practitioner and the social services. Throughout the book there is much practical wisdom based on the author's considerable experience and wide background reading.

The book would benefit by a more comprehensive index, and the addition of sub-headings in each chapter would help to systematize the subject better in the reader's mind.

This is the type of book which should prove valuable to the young principal setting out on his practice career and also to the experienced health visitor and district nurse.

**Man, medicine and morality.** A. E. CLARK-KENNEDY. London. Faber and Faber. 1969. Pp. 214. Price £2 (£2.00)

A number of books explaining medicine and health to the public has been published. So long as they do not frighten the reader they serve a useful purpose, but it may be assumed, although it cannot be proved, that most readers of books of this nature are introspective and may tend to be worried by what they read. Dr Clark-Kennedy has written a book which will be understood by the intelligent general reader, and will be useful for the sixth former who is contemplating medicine as a career. The main message that Dr Clark-Kennedy has given is that man, medicine and morality cannot be separated. There are sections on physiology—how the body works, how some diseases are capable of amendment, and how the attitude of the patient, the doctor and the public is affected by the advances in medicine and the changing climate of opinion on conception,

birth, living and death. Dr Clark-Kennedy seldom leads with opinions but states the facts on which his readers can form their own ideas.

**Care of the newly born infant.** W. S. CRAIG, B.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P. Edinburgh & London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1969. Pp.749. Price £3 5s. (£3.25).

This book is intended for midwives, family doctors, obstetricians and children's physicians. From the point of view of the general practitioner it seems to have fallen between several stools. A large proportion of the 750 pages is taken up with elaborate descriptions of the obvious. There are however few other books which cover this subject, and none in as much detail. As well as a description of the development of the newly born infant there are chapters devoted to the statistical and administrative backgrounds. Other chapters are given over to full details of nursing care. In addition there are descriptions of the acute illnesses liable to befall the new-born infant and congenital diseases. A chapter has been added on the problems of immigrant babies.

There are three appendices covering laboratory and therapeutic aids, the requirements of a special baby care unit and conversion tables from decimal to metric. The last typifies the unnecessary parts of the book. There is a glossary, which I doubt if even midwives will find useful.

This is the fourth edition and if there were any errors in the previous editions they appear to have been corrected. The quality of the illustrations is usually very good though some points could have been illustrated better if diagrams were used rather than photographs.

**The intersexual disorders.** CHRISTOPHER J. DEWHURST, M.B., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. and RONALD R. GORDON, M.C., M.D., M.R.C.P. London. Baillière, Tindall and Cassell. 1969. Pp. vii + 154. Price £3 10s. (£3.50).

This book, written by the professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at Queen Charlotte's Hospital and by a distinguished Sheffield paediatrician, brings light and hope into an area of human experience that, hitherto, has all too often been dominated by frustration and despair. At a time when our society is increasingly educated to accept the full facts of sexual relationships in Man, it is of practical importance to follow with attention the work of experts who are striving with success to bring help to those suffering from abnormalities of development which involve the structure of the sex organs.

The adrenogenital syndrome is fully discussed, and sex abnormalities that may be discovered at birth are well set out. The intractable problems that arise in later childhood, when failure of early diagnosis has led to error and wrong determination of sex, are wisely emphasized. The tragic problems

when many years have been endured in the incorrect sex are revealed clearly. There is an excellent section on the behaviour problems of patients who suffer from intersexual disorders without demonstrable genital abnormalities, a highly motivated area of social relationships.

For the general practitioner this book has a message in each major section, and first among them is the need for early diagnosis and the call for expert investigation. Here the full cooperation and confidence of the parents of an affected infant is paramount. No one is better placed to sustain both the parents and the experts in the critical and protracted periods of investigation and planned treatment than the family doctor, and this book will be read with close attention by all who engage in obstetric practice.

The painless initial examination of a buccal smear to determine the presence or absence of sex chromatin is a first step. This will show that if the child is normally male, no chromatin body will be present. The note of optimism which pervades this work will be a great help in enabling affected families to achieve the very excellent results for a child that are now possible.

The approach to surgical treatment is illustrated by many photographs and diagrams. It is now possible to refashion what appears to be a hopelessly abnormal structure of the genital tract, provided early and expert help is accepted. Not the least valuable section is that of the legal and registration difficulties imposed by the intersexual disorders. Some care here will save much future embarrassment to parents and to their doctor.

There is a clear approach to the formal genetic aspects of these disorders that will interest many, but all of us will be easier in mind if we have read this book before attending a woman in childbirth whose baby is sexually abnormal and whose family require confident, accurate and prompt advice on a most distressing occasion when they may well ask: "Does doubt exist?"

This wise and technically brilliant book will be widely read, and, as the pages are turned, many will wish with humility to join themselves in gratitude to the spirit in which the authors dedicated this fine work, "To our wives and families".

**Notes for the guidance of parents of diabetic children.** J. W. FARQUHAR, M.D., F.R.C.P.E. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1970. Pp. 28. Price 5s. 0d. (25p).

Opinions are divided on the value of 'handouts' to patients advising them on the care of a condition that they, or their children, may have. Some doctors believe this to be a certain way of inducing introspection and others think it legitimate and valuable health education. Much, indeed everything, depends on the level of intelligence of the patient and the average for the practice will condition the practitioner's view. Those whose practices contain a proportion of intelligent

reasonable parents will welcome these notes as an adjunct to their own advice. The information is pitched in rather too low a key to begin with but soon finds a good level and is clearly given throughout. The advice is orthodox even though details of procedure vary slightly between clinic and clinic, practice and practice. The testing of urine by Clinitest is described, and if issue is to be taken with the author on any matter it is the frequency with which he advises that this should be done,—four times a day, every day, with the results neatly recorded in a notebook. If small boys in Edinburgh can be disciplined to maintain such records accurately then diabetes must surely be one of the most valuable formative influences on the Scottish child.

**Lecture notes on the infectious diseases.** JOHN F. WARIN and ALASTAIR G. IRONSIDE. Oxford and Edinburgh. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1969. Pp. 178 + index. 25s. (£1.25)

The 'Lecture Notes' series is written primarily for the medical student and some of the volumes in the series have little relevance to subsequent practice. Perhaps this is the exception for it contains in accessible and concise form information that the doctor in practice may need from time to time. The full gamut of the infectious diseases is run, with note in passing that many of the conditions described are unlikely to be seen by the medical student in his hospital years. The information on aetiology, clinical features and treatments is factual and up to date and there is a short but useful chapter on immunization programmes.

This book will certainly justify its place on the group-practice common-room bookshelf where it will serve as a useful work of reference.

**Clinical dermatology. An individual approach.** JOHN T. INGRAM, M.D., F.R.C.P. London. J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1969. Pp. 194. Price £2 5s. (£2.25).

A simple and logical approach to diseases of the skin which will prove a most helpful basis for the further study of dermatology. There are full references. Certain sections are highly individual. For example, a chapter on diseases of the hair, nails and cosmetics has a delightful section on the 'perfect English Rose'. As the author implies in his preface, this work is not intended as a book of reference, but the index is good. Some of the illustrations are poor and it is unfortunate that so few are in colour. Some suggested treatments may be controversial but this book can be recommended, for it has a very readable and undoubtedly original approach. It provides a refreshingly simple and logical look at dermatology which should prove useful to the novice and to the more experienced general practitioner.