

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.