

Psychiatry in a changing society. Edited by S. H. FOULKES and G. STEWART PRINCE. London. Tavistock Publications. 1969. Pp. xviii+211. Price £2 10s. (£2.50).

Dr Foulkes is physician emeritus to the Maudsley Hospital; Dr Prince is consultant in child psychiatry at King's College Hospital. They have compiled this volume from papers read to the psychotherapy and social psychiatry section of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association during the year 1964-5, when they were respectively chairman and honorary secretary of the section. These essays are not confined to psychiatry in a narrow sense. The ten contributors include a sociologist, an ethologist, a biologist, an anthropologist, an educationalist and an industrial psychologist, and all have something valuable to contribute from their experience.

The book can be read on two levels. On one, the lesser, it concerns a domestic divergence within the section of the RMPA, where some members have been concerned by the preponderance of psychotherapeutic interests over those of social psychiatry, itself a term that has so far eluded precise definition. Dr E. H. Hare, in a cogent paper, argues the case for separating the section of social psychiatry from that of psychotherapy. Dr Foulkes, whose bias is in the direction of integration, sees the real separation as being in the minds of doctors, particularly psychiatrists. On the one hand there are those who take the 'scientific', objective approach, and on the other those, mainly analytically orientated, who are aware of their own and their patients' emotional involvement.

On the other level the book relates to expanding conceptions of psychiatry. More and more the person-to-person approach, valuable as it is in individual therapy, is seen to be limiting to the understanding of the problems of our society. Dr Foulkes, an analyst, is a pioneer of group therapy, and under his wise guidance this section of the RMPA, for a whole year, considered wider and wider social circles and the impact made on them by our culture.

This book is full of meat, and has interest not only for psychiatrists, but for all concerned with the way our society is going. One thing that emerges from most of the papers, however abstruse, is the concern of the participants for people. It is healthy that this should be seen at a time when some argue that scientific advances are valuable in themselves and that scientists are not responsible for disasters occurring from their application. Dr Foulkes, in his summing-up, says "We must get away from a false impartiality in favour of a conscious participation in the service of humanity."

Diseases of the digestive system. Articles from the British Medical Journal. London. British Medical Association 1969. Pp. viii+331. Price 40s. 0d. (£2.00)

Many doctors may have read all or part of this book already since it is a collection of articles, published under the same title in the *British Medical Journal*. These articles cover the whole area of the expanding field of gastro-enterology and include subjects such as cirrhosis of the liver, gallstone disease and arterial disease of the gut, as well as the more common topics such as duodenal ulcer and hiatus hernia. Each of the 33 chapters is a separate entity, being written by a different author or group of authors. There are no cross references between chapters and each has its own listed bibliography; there is, however, an index common to the whole book. All the contributors are recognized experts in their particular fields and all are working at the present time in British hospitals. Some of the chapters are illustrated by means of diagrams and x-ray plates but these are in the minority. There is no complete chapter on investigation of the gastro-intestinal tract; this is more than covered in each chapter where the appropriate investigations are discussed. One important point that emerges from the book is the need for co-operation between physician and surgeon in dealing with gastro-intestinal diseases, there being no place for petty parochialism which could prove to be fatal for the patient.

This is an excellent collection of articles, nicely produced, relatively cheap at 40s. and well worth reading by all medical students and by any doctor in clinical practice be it specialist or general.

The control of chemotherapy. P. J. WATT, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.P. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1970. Pp. 109. Price £1 10s. (£1.50).

This volume consists of ten papers, together with summaries and salient points raised in discussion, delivered at a symposium held on 28 March 1969 in the Wright-Fleming Institute, St Mary's Hospital Medical School, London. Most of the papers are of interest mainly to the specialist microbiologist and pharmacologist and are the result of the application of highly sophisticated techniques to carefully delineated problems. For the general practitioner, the paper making most impact describes the factors influencing the response of urinary tract infections to chemotherapy. The conclusions drawn, however, are not necessarily applicable to the situations commonly encountered in general practice, because the material is based on the highly selected data from special pyelonephritis clinics. This is not a book for the average general practitioner, although those with a special interest in antibiotics might wish to have it as a work of reference.