

for reference purposes. The presentation and colour prints are excellent though some of the black and white pictures are not so clear.

The book has been written for all those interested in the subject and is ideal for the general practitioner to read and then to keep for reference.

#### New editions

**Brain's diseases of the nervous system.** Seventh edition. The late LORD BRAIN, D.M., F.R.C.P., F.R.S., and JOHN N. WALTON, T.D., M.D., F.R.C.P. London. Oxford University Press. 1969. Pp. xv + 1062. Price £4. 15s. (£4.75)

This fine textbook appears once again larger in size, with a few deletions but with many additions reflecting recent advances in neurological knowledge. Lord Brain's untimely death in 1966 unfortunately interrupted the revision of this edition when only about one third had been completed, but Professor Walton has succeeded admirably in completing the task and has wisely adhered to the same traditional structure and style as his illustrious predecessor. This plan is used in the new introductory section to the first chapter on 'general principles' which was written and added by Professor Walton in accordance with Lord Brain's directions. This section makes a good beginning to the book.

Professor Walton has completely rewritten the chapter on disorders of muscle and has revised extensively all those sections which had not been touched upon by Lord Brain before his death. The result is that the book has maintained its excellent lay-out with chapters, sections and subsections clearly labelled. The style is easy to read and material easy to find. The book has been brought up to date with the addition of recent references added to the lists at the end of each of the main sections. The comprehensiveness of the book is well illustrated by the inclusion not only of those neurological syndromes resulting from what we might call primary disease of the nervous system, but also of the neurological manifestations that arise secondary to other conditions. Thus the nervous diseases that arise in association with intoxications and metabolic disorders (including alcohol and drug addiction), deficiency diseases and neoplasms originating outside the nervous system are all fully described. The final chapter appositely finishes with a discussion of the psychological aspects of neurology looking at the relationships between neurological and psychiatric disorder where there can be so much overlap—and then finally there is a very good index.

I believe that this volume, which is a classic in its own field, should be on every physician's bookshelf whether he be a general practitioner, a hospital specialist or a postgraduate student studying for a higher qualification.

**Obstetrics.** Second edition. J. M. HOLMES, M.D., B.S., F.R.C.O.G. London. Bailliere, Tindall & Cassell Ltd. 1969. Pp. viii + 301. Price 28s. 0d. (£1.40p).

This book has now gone into its second edition, the first having been published five years ago. The author's aim remains the same "to present a concise survey of modern obstetrics which meets the entire requirements for the M.B., B.S., examinations". As with all textbooks, whatever field of medicine is concerned, a new edition means the inclusion of new and advanced work, so despite the omission of outdated material the new edition has increased in size. To overcome this, the chapter on normal anatomy of the mother has been left out altogether, an almost identical chapter occurs in the companion volume on gynaecology. The chapter on the anatomy and physiology of the foetus is retained. Several new chapters appear in this edition, on placental function, placental insufficiency, foetal distress and asphyxia neonatorum, also on drug dependence in pregnancy. New techniques in assessing the state of the foetus are described such as ultrasonic monitoring of the foetal heart and scalp blood sampling. In addition to the inclusion of new material, the entire contents of the book have been reviewed and brought up to date. The absence of any mention of cervical incompetence and its management is to be regretted since it is not an uncommon condition, and some mention of the present position of termination of pregnancy ought to have been included since this is very much a part of modern day obstetrics and gynaecology—perhaps this is included in the companion volume on gynaecology. Many such topics must fall between two such volumes and argue strongly in favour of combined textbooks at this level of study, in the long run such a book would also be financially cheaper.

This is a well written book which covers the field, it will be of great value to the medical student and of use to the general practitioner obstetrician, but he would probably require something more detailed for reference purposes.

#### Books received

**Rehabilitation services for the disabled.** A report to the Nuffield Foundation. G. YATES, M.B., B.Chir., D.I.H., M.R.C.G.P. London. The Nuffield Foundation. Pp. 46.

**Mechanisms of toxicity.** British Medical Bulletin. Volume 25, Number 3, September 1969. London. The British Council. Pp. 219-312. Price £2.