

Book Reviews

The Art of Clinical Refraction. T. H. WHITTINGTON, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.O.M.S. First Edition, 1958. Oxford University Press, London. pp. 286. Price 30s.

The author's constant consideration of the whole patient and his exclusion of mathematics have contributed to make this book intelligible, interesting and instructive to the general medical reader, and it bears many of the hall-marks of the experienced teacher, especially notable being the lucid style, good sequence and clear subsection headings. It is the first edition of a book which deserves to live but which may have a struggle for survival in a somewhat crowded field. It is well produced, free from typographical errors, has a good index, and the matt paper contributes to the ease of reading. It must surely be the only book of its kind ever produced which does not contain a detailed anatomical drawing of the eye.

General practitioners issue forms O.S.C.1 every day and it behoves them to know what the patient needs and how much can be achieved by the use of spectacles. This book provides that information, and in doing so, emphasizes the need which many experienced general practitioners have felt, for refractions to be done by medically qualified experts.

Mental Disorders. W. S. DAWSON, D.M., F.R.C.P., F.R.A.C.P., D.P.H., E. and S. Livingstone, Edinburgh and London, 1958. Price 2s. 6d.

This little booklet of the Catechism Series will be useful to the medical student who is trying to do a quick revision of the subject for his finals. The fact that this is the fifth edition shows it has served a useful purpose in the past. Like all books of this kind it is very concentrated, and this does not make for easy reading. The established practitioner who wants to revise his psychiatry would do better to browse through a more substantial text-book. However, for examination purposes it has its place. A few omissions are inevitable. One wonders why, for instance, there is no mention of grand mal in the section on epilepsy, and the function of the Duly Authorised Officer deserves a little more space. The book is clearly written, and in a mere 68 pages it covers an immense amount of ground.

Urology in Outline. T. L. CHAPMAN, CH.M., F.R.C.S., F.R.F.P.S. E. and S. Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1959., pp. 174. Price 27s. 6d.

This book began its existence as a series of diagrams used for teaching students an elementary knowledge of the subject. Mr. Chapman has now added a small amount of text.

The illustrations are all in the form of black and white line