

Pharmacology. J. H. GADDUM, SC.D., F.R.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Fifth Edition, 1959, Oxford University Press, London, pp. 588 Price 42s. 0d.

For nearly 20 years medical students have turned to Gaddum's *Pharmacology* for reliable information, lucidly conveyed and pleasantly spiced with occasional anecdotes and quotations. Therapeutic uses are mentioned, but it is not a manual of therapeutics. What it does is to make therapeutics more intelligible and therefore more interesting, and practitioners who read it will be richly rewarded, for it is very readable. All the important drugs in the B.P. 1958 are mentioned and discussed, together with a number of others, some proprietary, and the dosages given. Curiously enough Chlorothiazide, perhaps the most important recent introduction, is omitted. This might account for the statement that "potassium deficiency . . . is difficult to produce artificially", for the difficulty with Saluric is to avoid it, and diarrhoea will also cause potassium deficiency. It is refreshing to find an author who does not bow to popular fashion and says "children need extra vitamin D in winter" and "It is probable that many mild infections of mucous membranes could be avoided if more vitamin A was taken". It is quite possible that Dr Gaddum's special interest in animal physiology may convince him where some clinicians may doubt, but animal and human studies are increasingly helping to fertilize one another, and no practitioner can read this book without being stimulated as well as enlightened.

Diseases of the Nervous System. Described for practitioners and students by Sir FRANCIS WALSH, M.D., D.SC., F.R.S. Ninth edition. Livingstone, 1958, Pp. 390, 89 illustrations. 30s. 0d.

This book is deservedly a favourite. The writer has succeeded in his aim of writing a simple textbook on a complicated subject. He has produced one which is authoritative and personal. It is a model textbook for students.

If a general practitioner has not had a good grounding in neurology as a student, he is unlikely to acquire it in his day-to-day work. The subject is too complex and the incidence of neurological disease too low in general practice. For the most part the practitioner requires a reference book in which he can refresh his memory when faced by such a disease as myasthenia gravis for the first time in four years. Most of us will welcome a simple book. It is a tribute to this one that it can serve in this way as well as in its earlier purpose.

The reviewer found the chapter on Vascular Disorders of the Brain particularly important. These are one of the commonest

forms of neurological disorder met by the general practitioner and one where he must inevitably accept immediate responsibility. The ninth edition of this book makes it clear that basic conceptions on this subject have changed greatly in the last ten years. Even the younger among us can afford to look at this subject again.

We are going to need books like this more and more.

The Rewards of Medicine and Other Essays. HUGH BARBER, F.R.C.P.,
H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd., London, 1939. Pp. 140. Price 15s. 0d.

All except two of the essays collected together in this little book are reprinted from *The Practitioner* and *Guy's Hospital Gazette*. Readers of these journals will already be acquainted with Dr Barber's style and will wish to purchase this delightful volume. The essays cover such subjects as "The Rewards of Medicine", "The Act of Dying", "Waters, Holidays and Cures", and "The Specialization of Age". Dr Barber favours the historical approach and writes authoritatively on doctors' fees, the value of fiction in medical education, and body snatching. Two essays on "Smollett's Contribution to Medicine" and "Jane Austen's Medical Wisdom" point to the value of a knowledge of the classical fiction of the 18th and 19th centuries in assessing the place of the doctor in the social scale.

Your reviewer for one has been stimulated to turn again to the pages of Smollett. Not often do we find so much learning displayed in such a charming manner.

A Handbook of Medical Hypnosis. GORDON AMBROSE, L.M.S.S.A.,
and GEORGE NEWBOLD, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., M.M.S.A., D.R.C.O.G.,
D.C.H. Second edition. Ballière, Tindall and Cox, London,
1958. Pp. xiii + 276. Price 27s. 6d.

Hypnosis has, in the past, been a recurrent disappointment to the medical profession, to the profit of the unorthodox practitioners. Recently there has been a revival of interest in the subject within the profession, and with our increasing knowledge of psychology and psychiatry "The time is ripe for the acceptance of hypnotherapy as a standard and national form of treatment and for its integration into the main stream of medicine".

The subtitle of this book is "An Introduction for Practitioners and Students" and it fulfils this object well. The first part describes the hypnotic state: its history, nature, phenomena, induction and legal aspects. The second part describes its use in general medicine, neuroses, anaesthesia, paediatrics, obstetrics, gynaecology and dermatology.

At first sight it may surprise readers to see such conditions as