

anaesthetic. The tendency of cyclopropane to cause cardiac arrhythmias has been traced to its use after morphine premedication. Barbiturates neutralize this disadvantage. A technique using succinylcholine chloride as a relaxant in conjunction with light cyclopropane anaesthesia is praised.

The defects of the book are slight ones. No mention is made of afterpains when succinylcholine chloride is used, and the instruction that the patient should bear down during the first stage of labour will not commend itself to all (p. 223). On the whole the style is clear and readable, but there is the usual American phraseology, e.g. "... the widespread use of ... has become quite marked", (meaning—"is now widely used") and "... stands out as a very great landmark in the field..." (meaning—"is important").

One wonders also if the use of art paper throughout is necessary. Certainly there are some detailed figures, but no colour plates, and a lighter paper would have made it possible to reduce the price of the book.

There is a comprehensive bibliography. Any anaesthetist who likes cyclopropane will want to have the book on his library shelves.

Principles and Practice of Medicine: A textbook for students and doctors. SIR STANLEY DAVIDSON, B.A.(CANTAB.), M.D., F.R.C.P.(ED.), F.R.C.P.(LOND.), M.D.(OSLO), and the STAFF of the Department of Medicine, University of Edinburgh and Associated Clinical Units, 4th Edition, Edinburgh. E. & S. Livingstone, 1958. Pp. xii + 1067. Price 35s. 0d.

This standard textbook first appeared in 1952 and so rapidly established itself as a standard work that it is now after six years in its fourth edition. For students about to sit their finals there is probably no other book more suitable. In spite of the number of authors the whole work has an unusual homogeneity which makes for pleasant intensive reading. As a general refresher for graduates, the work is also eminently suitable but practitioners will find that it lacks sufficient detail to make it a useful reference work. The publishers are to be congratulated on the production and the price.

Messrs Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd have published their 1959 Catalogue of Books and Journals on Medicine and Science which they will be pleased to send to any one that writes to them at 25 Broad Street, Oxford.