

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, emphasises the need which many experienced general practitioners have felt, for refractions to be done by medically qualified experts.

Reversible Renal Insufficiency. D. H. ATLAS, M.D., PH.D., F.A.C.P. and P. GABERMAN, M.D. 1st edition. Bailliere, Tindall & Cox Ltd, London, 1958. Price 56/-.

In their preface the American authors point out that the flood of published material is ever rising, and, like the Sorcerer's Apprentice, they think they will shortly be submerged. Before building an ark, they offer their version of the subject to enable the clinician to differentiate between reversible and irreversible renal failure. The result is a 204 page review of "as much material as possible" and a list of 414 references.

The main market for the book must be among hospital physicians and urologists, and few general practitioners will derive any practical help from it. Much theory is discussed, and much disagreement among the experts is brought out. The chapter on management of renal insufficiency argues the error of attempting to get a diuresis by increasing water intake, and the whole book shows a sound physiological approach. It is evident that "renal shutdown" is not always a case for abandoning hope.

Shakespeare and Medicine. R. R. SIMPSON, M.B., CH.B., F.R.C.S.(Ed.). Edinburgh and London; E. & S. Livingstone Ltd, 1959, pp. viii—267. Price 25s.

In the study of any period in history, the art and literature of the time provide one of the best means of gaining an insight into social behaviour. The most illuminating and reliable information is not necessarily gained from the greatest artists and writers, and sometimes the minor dramatists, novelists and poets yield material of greater value than their more famous contemporaries; in sociology and medicine Crabb and Mrs Gaskell are examples. Part of the Shakespeare Wonder, as Mr Ivor Brown conceives it, is the multitude of books for ever pouring off the presses on all aspects of his work; and many of these contrive to show that in each trade