

now published a simple booklet about the same subject, which appears to be expressly designed for "elder sisters and baby-sitters" who have at times the charge of babies. It is so well done that it is sure to be widely recommended.

One small criticism is that the mention of hot-water bottles did not include an absolute veto; they are recommended as being occasionally needed by small babies. But it is made clear two pages later that hot-water bottles should *not* be left in the cot with active babies.

There are competent sections on development, mothering, feeding, exercise, clothing, sleep, cleanliness, etc., and the manual is a very good three-shillings worth. It deserves to be widely used, and will be.

**Smoking and Lung Cancer.** T. W. LEES, M.D., Law Hospital, Carlisle, 1959 (published by the author).

In his introduction, Dr Lees declares his personal interest—"he has never smoked a cigarette or a pipe". The reader may conclude that Dr Lees is a non-smoker, or that he smokes cigars, brown paper, or other material!

With similar careful and critical appraisal, Dr Lees has examined the published evidence about the connection between smoking and lung cancer. The result is a most stimulating paper.

Attention is drawn to the reduction in laryngeal and mouth cancers which has occurred at the same time as lung cancers have increased. There is also the difficulty that the correlation between smoking and cancer is lowest in the oldest men, those who have been smoking the longest.

Dr Lees offers an alternative explanation of the admitted association between smoking and lung cancer. He states as a general law "that there is a non-causal correlation between the social habits commonly pertaining to good health and the incidence of certified acute disease." That is to say, people in good health earn more and are more exposed to social influences, which encourages a higher smoking rate among them than in those whose health is less robust; and the invalid, on death, will probably be certified as dying from his chronic disease so that cases of lung cancer among invalids may well be missed thus loading the incidence of lung cancer (and all acute fatal diseases) in favour of the previously healthy. This will result in the healthy having a higher incidence both of smoking and of lung cancer.

Figures are included which suggest that this also is true of deaths due to violence.

Dr Lees concludes that the cause of the increase of lung cancer

is not known, though it may be a manifestation of the great reduction in chronic disease which has occurred over the same period. He allows (cautiously) that smoking may be harmful to health, and simply asserts that the Medical Research Council's dictum, that smoking can reasonably be held to be the cause of the increased incidence of lung cancer, is not justified at present.

All those interested in the subject should study Dr Lees pamphlet. It will reopen the minds of those who feel fairly sure of the situation. (Your reviewer, by the way, is a life-long non-smoker.)

**Early Diagnosis.** Edited by HENRY MILLER. Edin. and Lond. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. pp. xxv + 375. Price 25/-.

This book has been written especially for general practitioners; only two of the authors are in general practice, but somehow the needs of the family doctor have been assimilated by each author, though of course in varying degree.

It is stimulating and at times humbling to read it as a general treatise on the cases that we all meet day after day; in addition, its generous and well co-ordinated index makes it a valuable work for quick reference.

The introductory article by Lord Cohen on "Early Diagnosis" is a fascinating study, the production of the mind of a man who would have made a superb general practitioner if he had not found wider scope elsewhere. The heavily leaded section headings such as "The Commonest Diseases are the Commonest" or "Never overlook symptoms which might help to establish a diagnosis" or "Never allow the social position of a patient to limit your examination" provide a short guide to success for court physician or rural general practitioner alike.

The authors are members of the staffs of medical schools throughout the country, with the addition of two from the Postgraduate School at Hammersmith and two general practitioners.

Chapters of outstanding interest to family doctors are those on "Kidney Disease" by Christopher Hardwick of Guy's Hospital, on "Cardiac Insufficiency" by Morgan Jones of Manchester, and on "Disseminated Sclerosis and Parkinsonism" by Henry Miller of Newcastle on Tyne. To a greater degree than could be hoped for, these authors have considered these problems as met in family practice rather than as first seen in the outpatient departments. "Fits and Faints" by J. B. Stanton, of Edinburgh, and "Poisoning" by Francis E. Camps of the London Hospital offer the material