

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

that a general practitioner needs to see presented together on each subject.

The two general-practitioner authors are to be warmly congratulated. "The Acute Specific Fevers" is by G. I. Watson, of Surrey, whose survey is a beautiful study of the subject, beautiful in style and argument, and in knowledge of the clinical and the human issues involved. John Hunt of London has written on "Peripheral Vascular Disease" with the mastery of wide experience and of erudition, for it is hard to conceive of a more difficult and fragmented subject.

This is an invaluable book for general practitioners. Early diagnosis presents us with our greatest challenge and our greatest opportunity. Every chapter in this book can add to our perceptions, and our power of analysing the data which we are usually the first to assemble. It is recommended as an essential volume for the family doctor's personal library, whether large or small.

**An Outline of Human Relationships.** DR EUSTACE CHESSER. 1959. London: Heinemann. pp. 446. Price 25/-.

This is a book written for the layman, but it would make a good beginning for a student who wishes to make a serious study of psychology. The author outlines the theories of Freud, Jung and Adler, but does not bind himself to any one school of thought. He gives clear definitions of the psychological terms he uses, and writes in a very readable style. He emphasises the vital importance to the future adult of the emotional environment of the first five years of his life. He returns, without giving any evidence, to the discarded Victorian idea that the pregnant mother's emotions can affect her unborn child. Your reviewer has had the medical care of some 2,500 unmarried mothers during the last six weeks of pregnancy and the first six to eight weeks after the confinement. Nearly all the mothers have been emotionally disturbed, some have been undernourished, yet most of the full-term babies have been born in normal physical health. But it is very striking how the babies do not make normal progress physically and mentally if they do not receive real mother love. An unwanted child feels it is rejected at a very early age, and this retards its whole development.

It is pleasing to find a psychiatrist who has a religious faith. The author states early in the book: "Religion would not be such a universal phenomenon if it were not part of our essential nature". And he emphasises and enlarges on this theme at the end of the book. The more experience one has in general practice the more one realizes that materialistic concepts cannot cover the whole of life. Many psychiatrists would give a great deal more help to our patients if only they supported Dr Chesser's views.