

Bigger's Handbook of Bacteriology. Seventh Edition by F. S. STEWART, M.D. (Dublin), F.R.C.P.I. 1959. London. Balliere, Tindall and Cox, pp. x + 311. Price 37/6.

This is the first new edition of this favourite text-book to be published for ten years. The many advances in bacteriology and virology have necessitated an almost complete re-writing. Professor Stewart has succeeded in producing a most readable account of the subject for use by students and practitioners. Those doctors who wish to bring themselves up-to-date in a subject which intimately concerns their daily work, and do not require to learn details of techniques that they will never use, can be thoroughly recommended this book. Students may find the lack of tables summarizing and condensing the knowledge they are asked to assimilate a handicap, but their absence certainly helps the reader not under the shadow of examinations.

Aids to Neurology. E. A. BLAKE PRITCHARD, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. Second Edition. London. Bailliere, Tindall and Cox. pp. x + 480. 1959. Price 15/-.

This book is reviewed here strictly for its value to the general practitioner. As it has been written for students, it is not ideally suited for practitioners. The writer, assuming recent study of anatomy and physiology, tries as much as possible to relate clinical neurology to these basic subjects. The result is not a book too simple for us, but rather too complex. An immense amount of detail is skilfully compressed into these pages, much of it on subjects which would be useful to the general practitioner only if he were studying for a postgraduate degree. One expects of a neurologist logic and clear thinking, and they are to be found here; nevertheless this book demands considerable effort of the reader. Many conditions, rare even in neurological practice, are described and well described. Treatment is always mentioned but in this book it is not the writer's chief concern. Excursions into psychiatry are scrupulously avoided, but when, in the differential diagnosis of migraine, temporal arteritis is mentioned and the several common patterns of psychogenic headache are omitted, the practising doctor feels uneasy.

Haematology. *British Medical Bulletin.* Vol. 15; No. 1, January 1959. Various Authors. London. The Medical Department, The British Council. pp 88. Price 20/-.

This symposium on haematology is composed of 14 articles mainly devoted to recent work on various aspects of the life of