

practitioner who may have to deal personally with some of the problems of poisoning.

The place of dynamic psychiatry in medicine. Edited by John G. Howells. Ipswich. The Society of Clinical Psychiatrists. 1970. Pp. 37. Price 3s. 6d. (17½p.)

This study group was set up to consider the place of dynamic psychiatry in medicine as a whole. The report is readable, not over-burdened with technical jargon, and provides strong and reasoned arguments for their conclusion that—"Dynamic psychiatry, by virtue of its equal concern with the psychological, social and biological aspects of health and illness, has an important part to play in medical practice, in training and in research, as well as in the wider field of preventive medicine and organization of society."

Much of the practical application of these ideas will be in the hands of general practitioners, and for those who find the term 'dynamic psychiatry' a bit terrifying, it is consoling to read (page 19)—"Much of what has been said should follow automatically from common sense and ordinary human concern."

New editions

National atlas of disease mortality in the United Kingdom. Revised and enlarged edition. G. Melvyn Howe, M.Sc., Ph.D. on behalf of the Royal Geographical Society. London. Nelson. 1970. Pp. 197. Price £5 5s. (£5.25).

Family doctors who have practised in several parts of the country are well aware of the different spectra of disease which occur in different places. Much of this is due to the cultural and industrial habits of the people and much of it is confined to that kind of morbidity which is quickly cured and which so often has no pathological basis; but there are differences in mortality also. These have been mapped by Professor G. Melvyn Howe of the University of Strathclyde on behalf of the Royal Geographical Society. The Medical Geography Committee of the society included Dr Robin Pinsent whose great interest in the subject has already stimulated several surveys by the College.

This is the second edition of this work, much enlarged and much more useful as a research aid. The introduction gives a concise history of medical geography. The first part consists of standard maps of the United Kingdom onto which the overall mortality ratios for men and women are plotted for certain specific conditions such as cancer of the lung and bronchus, of the stomach, of the breast and of the uterus, of the circulatory system—the arteriosclerotic diseases including coronary—and vascular disease of the central nervous system; deaths from gastric and duodenal ulcer and from accidents are included. In preparing

the second edition which in effect is part two of this volume and relates to mortality in 1959–63, advantage has been taken of the computerization of statistics. The results are plotted rather differently and are much more illuminating. A study of this atlas will give rise to much thought, and fresh attempts will doubtless be made to unravel some of the imponderables here presented. Why, for instance, should congenital malformation mortality be so high in many small urban areas? Why is it so high in Zeeland and in Pembrokeshire and Caernarvonshire? Some of these apparent inconsistencies must be capable of explanation. More work on these is needed. It is insufficient only to note the facts, there must be a reason for these facts. Other maps will surely set people thinking on subjects in which they are interested.

A few misprints will no doubt be corrected in the next edition and are of little significance. Why, however, a Scottish publisher should allow their English printer to place Perth in Preston will doubtless require an explanation.

Diseases of children in the subtropics and tropics.

Second edition. Edited by D. B. JELLIFFE, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.A.A.P., F.A.P.H.A., D.C.H., D.T.M. & H. London. Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd. 1970. Pp. xx+1011. Price Boards £12 10s. 0d. (£12.50). E.L.B.S. Edition £6. (£6.00)

For those who practise in the tropics or subtropics this book is surely a must. All who are interested in paediatrics will find much information in its pages which is hard to find gathered together in other books. Since publication of the first edition 12 years ago there have been great changes in the pattern of diseases, not only in the hotter climates but also in temperate zones. For instance the section on viral encephalitis brings up-to-date the study of a problem of increasing significance in this country.

The publisher and editor are to be congratulated on the excellence of their presentation, and the illustrations are extremely well-chosen and clear.

Child Psychology. Sixth edition. Arthur T. Jersild. London. Staples Press. 1969. Pp. xiv + 610. Price £3 10s. 0d. (£3.50).

This well-established work has now reached its sixth edition, the first having appeared as far back as 1933. It is a book written more for the student of psychology than for the student of clinical medicine, unless he be a trainee specialist in child psychiatry. The material upon which the book is based is gathered mainly from the study of children in their reactions and behaviour, to a lesser degree the results of similar studies of animals is involved. The work of the psychoanalyst who looks backwards into the developmental past is mentioned virtually in passing only. Freud and Jung—great leaders in the discipline

of psychoanalysis are mentioned, but Jung does not appear in the index.

The book retains its basic structure, being divided into six parts, a child is born, laying the foundations, self and others, emotional development, the growth of understanding, and personality development. Each part is then further divided into chapters which contain several sections. The bibliography is collected together at the back of the book, authors names being listed alphabetically and their papers listed by year of publication, in the text authors and year are given. At the end of each chapter a list of recommended further reading is given. This new edition represents a complete review of both the fifth edition and of the entire field of child psychology. Much new material has been added on children thinking and an entire chapter has been included on genetics and heredity, a reflection of the recent interest in behavioural genetics such as the genetic make-up of criminals.

This is a vast work of over six hundred pages, which deals with all aspects of child psychology. It will be of little value to either the general practitioner or the medical student, but would be of great value to those whose work lies entirely in the care of children.

A way to natural childbirth. Second edition. HELEN HEARDMAN. Revised by MARIA EBNER, M.C.S.P., Dip.T.P. Edinburgh & London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1970. Pp. vii+127. Price 10s. 0d. (50p).

This book which was originally written in 1948 by Helen Heardman has now been revised and re-written by Maria Ebner. In the 20 years which have elapsed since the original edition, many advances have occurred in midwifery, but as the new author states "Mrs Heardman's pioneering efforts to give mental and physical help to the expectant mother were founded on sound principles".

It is refreshing to see stated early on in the book that childbirth is a natural, physiological process. This is so often forgotten, and a most important point to get over to the young expectant mother who is so often over-exposed to 'old wives' tales'. Following the introduction a short chapter is included on health education in childhood, a topic of growing importance in educational circles today. If carried out correctly this should ensure that newly-married couples fully understand the

physical and emotional differences between men and women, so essential for happy marriages. The main section of the book deals with the preparation for pregnancy, and is broken down into a series of suggestions for nine relaxation classes. Several exercises are described with the aid of diagrams, aiming at total relaxation during labour, and an accurate description of labour, not only describing the physical mechanics taking place, but describing also what the mother is liable to feel emotionally. There are also chapters on lactation and the puerperium, again with suggestions as to suitable exercises for the rapid return to non-pregnant health and also explanations as to what is taking place at this stage.

This is a most excellent book, short and concise, very nicely illustrated and of great value to anybody doing maternity work.

The Medical Secretary's Handbook. Second edition. M. DRURY, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.G.P. London. Bailliere, Tindall and Cassell Ltd. 1969. Pp. xii + 326. Price £2. (£2.00)

For anyone about to embark on a career as a medical secretary, this book will be invaluable. It is well compiled and illustrated and covers every aspect of the work, whether the secretary intends to work in a hospital or in general practice. Beginning with a short history of medicine, it goes on to tell of the inauguration of the National Health Service and of the functions of the local health authorities working in conjunction with the health service.

Great care has been taken to give the reader as much detailed information and help as possible. The hospital secretary can learn the exact procedure to be adopted when admitting patients to hospital, how to deal with outpatients as well as guidance on keeping accurate medical records and statistics. For the secretary in general practice, whose work is of necessity more varied and covers a wider field, this book is especially helpful. From it she can learn how best to play her part so that the work of the doctor and his surgery runs efficiently and smoothly. At the end of the book there are tables and a glossary of medical abbreviations and terminology which will be of great assistance. I would like to think that every medical secretary had access to this book as I am sure it would be in constant use for reference purposes.