

and the 'acute neck' as well as 'acute vomiting and/or diarrhoea' tonsillitis is included as an emergency. The definition of an emergency is rather vague; the patient's is very different from the doctor's. A medical emergency is surely a situation which demands action to prevent disaster to the patient. A peri-tonsillar abscess (which is not mentioned) may be such, but not tonsillitis.

The book is well printed and for these days the price is reasonable.

Preventive medicine in medical care. KURT SCHWARZ, M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.P., D.P.H. London. H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. Pp. x+216. Price £2.10s. (£2.50).

The author describes his book "as a practical guide to the practice of preventive medicine and the application of preventive medical procedures" to individuals and to the community. Two sections cover infectious and non-infectious diseases and the chapter on each disease is subdivided under eight headings: (a) clinical features, (b) atypical features, (c) presymptomatic diagnosis, (d) epidemiology, (e) at risk groups, (f) prevention—primary, secondary and early diagnosis, and (g) public health aspects. Much interesting detail is packed into 26 chapters. The pity is that the author's misuse of punctuation and involved sentences (example above) may well irritate and distract from what has been written. He shows too the common confusion between "incubation period" which he mentions frequently and "serial interval" which is not discussed even when dealing with the duration of infectivity.

There are a few matters of fact, particularly about some of the common infectious diseases, with which experienced family doctors may disagree; for example that infants and young children are among those *at risk* in influenza; or again, the primary prevention of *adult* chickenpox or mumps should surely include a consideration of whether to encourage the catching of a usually milder attack of the disease during childhood.

Apart from such minor criticisms, this is a book to get out of the library and look through before deciding whether it satisfied one's personal taste. No one is likely to read very far without learning something he did not know.

Clinical investigation by means of haematology.

F. A. Ward, L.R.C.P.I., M.C.Path. London. Butterworths. 1970. Pp. vii+164. Price £1 8s. (£1.40).

This interesting little handbook is not one that would be purchased without having read a standard textbook on haematology. This is because the author presents his subject material as a collection of case reports, but these make amusing and stimulating reading. The format is such that the reader is presented in each case

report with a clinical history and the haemogram. The author then asks a number of questions which the reader must attempt to answer before turning the page. The answers are given in the form of a short discussion containing many useful and practical bits of clinical information.

The book is divided into five sections—the normochromic normocytic anaemias, the hypochromic microcytic anaemias, the macrocytic normochromic anaemias, proliferative conditions, and haemorrhagic diseases—and each section is headed by a short introduction. The case reports are not in any special order but the less complicated ones are earlier in each section. In fact the first one or two are used to explain and demonstrate some of the basic definitions used in each section. There is no index but the first one or two pages of each section is devoted to listing the different clinical conditions which are described in the subsequent case reports.

This book is suitable for picking up to read in the odd spare five minutes and can be resumed at any time after any interval.

The place of dynamic psychiatry in medicine.

Report of a Study Group of the Society of Clinical Psychiatrists. H. H. WOLFF. Edited by JOHN G. HOWELLS. Ipswich, The Calver Press. 1970. Pp. 37. Price 3s. 6d. (17.5p)

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 (p. 19)—"Much of what has been said should follow automatically from common sense and ordinary human concern."

New editions

Conybeare's textbook of medicine. Fifteenth edition. Edited by W. N. MANN, M.D., F.R.C.P. and M. H. LESSOF, M.D., F.R.C.P. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1970. Pp. xii+935. Price £8.

The fact that a textbook has reached its fifteenth edition in 30 years makes a review almost superfluous. Furthermore no reviewer can be expected to read right through a heavy tome of nearly a thousand double-column pages. Reference to

various monographs reveals that the work has retained its usefulness, even gained on past editions and almost wherever it is opened the reader will find what he is seeking and often will gain fresh information. The editors have been skilful in achieving a remarkable uniformity of style. The late Dr Charles Baker's handling of the section on the diseases of the cardiovascular system can be singled out as particularly enlightening. This is a book which the general practitioner will find helpful in his practice.

The medical annual. Eighty-seventh issue. Edited by SIR RONALD BODLEY SCOTT, *K.C.V.O.*, M.A. D.M., F.R.C.P. and R. MILNES WALKER, *C.B.E.*, M.S., F.R.C.S., F.A.C.S. Bristol. John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1970. Pp. xxiv+615. Price £3 3s. 0d. (£3.15p).

One of the features of the *Medical annual* in recent years has been the authoritative review articles on subjects of pressing interest. These cover the growing points in medicine, though this year three of the articles are on problems of constant interest. 'Some problems of medical care' by Professor Robert F. L. Logan is timely in view of the present consideration of the Green Paper. Those on 'Indigestion' and 'The concept of alcoholism' are always burning questions. The review articles are, as always, of great interest and the illustrations well-chosen and excellently reproduced.

Problems and progress in medical care. Essays on current research. Fourth series. Edited by GORDON MCLACHLAN. London, New York, Toronto. Oxford University Press. 1970. Published for the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust. Pp. 204. Price 35s. (£1.75p)

The fourth volume of this series comprises six essays on such disparate subjects as the concentration and rationalization of surgical beds in the Liverpool area, the efficiency of laundry and catering services in hospitals, the operational syntax of medical records, the prescriptive screening of children, a linked system of child-health records and an experiment in management education for nurses. These, and kindred matters, are of great moment to NHS administrators, but it is difficult to conceive that general practitioners will beat a path to the bookseller's door for this volume. Two facts emerge clearly from the essays; the enormous complexity of NHS administration, and that problems as always, in an enterprise with a remorseless budget, are more prominent than progress.

Medical treatment. A textbook of therapy in four volumes. Volume three. Edited by KENNETH MACLEAN, M.D., F.R.C.P. and GEORGE SCOTT, M.D., F.R.C.P. London. J. & A. Churchill. 1970. Pp. viii+260. Price £2 5s. 0d. (£2.25).

Volume three of the third edition of this textbook of medical treatment has now been published. This is the third in a series of four volumes which are being published as they are produced in replacement of the original large complete textbook. It is the editors' belief that the original book has become much too large and also difficult to revise as a whole and so they hope by breaking it down into four volumes, but retaining continuity between each, to overcome these difficulties. They also considered that with ever increasing medical knowledge, it was becoming impossible for two general physicians to remain fully conversant with it, as a result of this the number of specialist contributors has been increased and in an attempt to maintain uniformity the vast majority of them are Guy's men.

Volume three deals with rheumatic diseases, skeletal diseases, endocrine disorders, corticotrophin and the adrenal corticosteroids, disorders of electrolyte and water metabolism, renal disease, diseases of metabolism and treatment of acute poisoning. The major portion of text on each condition considered deals with its treatment; brief outlines of pathology and symptomatology are included. Words are not wasted, the entire project is too large for that, but the ground is fully covered. Each chapter has its own references, enumerated throughout the chapter, and then listed at the end; some also contain a list of suggested further reading. The chapter on renal disease contains an appendix on Giovannetti diets. Volume three has its own index, as have the other volumes; volume four will contain a comprehensive index to the entire work, it will also contain a recent advances chapter dealing with new work published since the publication of volume one.

This book maintains the high standard of the previous two volumes and the entire work promises to be a first-class textbook of medical treatment.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Health aspects of family planning. World Health Organization Technical Report Series No. 442. Geneva. World Health Organization. 1970. Pp. 50. Price 6s. (30p).

Clinical pharmacology. Scope, organization, training. World Health Organization Technical Report Series No. 446. Geneva. World Health Organization. 1970. Pp. 21. Price 4s. (20p).