

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).