

will be published at yearly intervals, until most of the field of therapeutics is covered.

The contents of this first volume deal with the anti-infective agents, vitamins, drugs acting on the blood, and psychotropic agents, and in discussing these subjects the sections are devoted not only to the drug groups but also to their use in the management of different clinical conditions.

Although the articles have been written by different authors, the standard throughout is consistently high so that this paperback is a useful book for reading, for keeping up-to-date, and for reference. Being a paperback it is reasonably priced.

Diseases of the colon, rectum and anus. Tutorials in postgraduate medicine. Edited by BASIL C. MORSON, D.M., F.C.Path. London. William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1969. Pp. xiii+314. Price £2 10s. (£2.50).

This volume, which is the first of a projected series, is really a collection of lectures on diseases of the large bowel and anus, directed mainly at the young trainee surgeon and general practitioner. There are twenty-six chapters, starting with the anatomy, physiology, radiology and instrumentation of the region. These are followed by accounts of each group of ailments and include valuable chapters on colostomy and ileostomy, as well as the expected chapters on polyposis, cancer, proctocolitis, Crohn's disease, ischaemic disease of the large bowel, haemorrhoids and fistula. Each chapter is clearly laid out, important points tabulated and simple line diagrams are well used. There is a short but adequate bibliography at the end of each chapter.

The contributors are all well-known and mainly based at St Mark's Hospital, London. Each has made a clear and precise contribution and the whole has been well put together by the editor.

The general practitioner will find this book a most useful source of information about these extremely common and often inadequately treated conditions. It is excellent value at the reasonable price of 50s., and should be on every doctor's shelf.

It is hoped that the further tutorials projected in this series will keep up the high standard set by the first.

Road accidents and the family doctor. London. British Medical Association. 1970. Pp. 56. Price 10s. (50p).

This booklet is a collation of a series of articles that were published in the *British Medical Journal* last autumn. At the time the reviewer was impressed with the clarity and practicality as being relevant to the needs of any doctor called to a road traffic accident. It is good, therefore, that they are now published as a booklet which is excellent value for ten shillings.

For too long, medical students have not been

taught the essential principles of first aid with, sometimes, unfortunate and embarrassing results for them when they are faced with a serious accident. This may well explain why, in some areas the police and fire services prefer to keep meddlesome professional men out of the way. They have a point. Therefore, any effort to publicize and encourage the development of schemes such as the North Riding Road Accident After Care scheme in other areas is to be welcomed and this booklet does just this. It is fascinating to read, with a wealth of information and leaves one with a desire to learn more about the use of the sophisticated equipment and practical techniques necessary if one is to provide skilled professional care to the severely injured. The articles by Drs Snook and Easton are particularly good in this respect. It perhaps underlines a need for a comprehensive manual on the management of road traffic accidents that will be of use not only to doctors but to all others concerned like the police, fire services and ambulance crews. But accident management is only one side of the coin, the other side is accident prevention and it is timely that Mr Norman Capener should have written the introduction in which he has outlined the valuable contribution of the Medical Commission on Accident Prevention. This is purely a medical body dedicated to the study of what is one of the most serious epidemics of this century and the greatest killer of our young people.

Church and hospital. MARGARET WELCH. London. Falcon Books. 1970. Pp. 59. Price 5s. (25p.)

This short booklet fills a gap in available information for voluntary workers in hospitals. Its title indicates that much of the work discussed is to supply the spiritual wants and needs of patients. The information and advice contained however, can be applied to all forms of visiting and practical volunteer service in wards and outpatient departments.

The explanation about structure and conventions of the professional hospital staffing and methods, will help to avoid misunderstandings and wasted good intentions of the newcomer.

An oversight is the lack of reference to the part that junior medical staff play in their contacts with the patients and awareness of their needs. The shifts of nursing staff and the intermittent visits of consultants may not know all of these, though co-operation with them is essential. Young doctors can be very grateful for the help afforded by experienced volunteers, welfare workers and chaplains.

The style of writing is direct and the reading list admirable.

Coronary care. NORMAN L. GOODLAND, S.R.N., R.N.M.S. Bristol. John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1970. Pp. viii+88. Price 18s. (90p).

This small book is written primarily for the nursing staffs of coronary care units, with a

final short chapter on nursing coronary heart disease patients at home. Brief sections on causation, signs and symptoms and complications lead on to the main theme i.e. nursing care. These chapters are clear and succinct and will repay study by all those concerned in the management of this very common disease. The reviewer is not quite so happy about the chapter headed "The use of the machines"—the electrocardiograph and the cathode-ray oscilloscope; this chapter covers 34 of the total 88 pages of text and it attempts too much. It is expecting a lot of even an experienced nurse that she (or he) should be able to recognize a v. nodal rhythm, a wandering pace-maker or even bundle-branch block.

There are a number of minor deviations that might be looked at when preparing the next edition, e.g. the diagram of atrial flutter (on page 57) is unusual, the use of quinidine in atrial fibrillation is falling out of favour as portable and efficient defibrillators become more readily available; per contra, there is no mention of lignocaine which is finding favour in the treatment of ventricular paroxysmal tachycardia. Lastly, in the description of high blood pressure the reviewer found no mention of the diastolic component. These, however, are minor blemishes and a nursing colleague who spends eighteen shillings on this book will not have done so needlessly.

New editions

Pediatrics. Fourteenth edition. HENRY L. BARNETT, M.D., ARNOLD H. EINHORN, M.D. New York. Butterworths. 1968. Pp. xxv+1847. Price £10 15s. 0d. (£10.75p).

The original Holt's *Diseases of infancy and childhood* first appeared in 1896. This, the fourteenth edition, is the second to appear under its new and abbreviated title. It has also, according to the editor in his preface, been almost entirely rewritten to bring it into line with new trends in child health services in the United States. The psychological, physiological and biochemical aspects of children's diseases are discussed, as well as the clinical.

Like all encyclopaedic textbooks it is easy to find fault with details; the perfect textbook covering an entire subject has yet to be written. What the potential purchaser will want to know is: Is this the sort of book I am looking for?

Because it is, in effect, a first edition, incorporating new ideas, Barnett's book does offer advantages over other textbooks on paediatrics. The attempt to cover the physiological and biochemical bases of diseases has in the main been successful; but the psychological views are somewhat superficial. The social aspects of paediatrics are also not discussed in any great detail, and, of course, the

social services available in Britain are not dealt with at all. (In passing it is worth pointing out that American paediatricians appear to have much of which to be envious in the facilities available to those of us—general practitioners, local authority medical officers and paediatricians—who are responsible for child health in this country. The 'new pediatrics' which is being evolved in the States has much to learn from British experiences of the past 70 years.)

The type is clear and easy to read. The popular double column page is used. There are several diagrams of the type usually found in scientific papers which are easy to follow but the photographic illustrations are poor. At the beginning of the book there are eight pages of colour illustrations. They would not be missed if they had been omitted.

There is an index but it is not very helpful. For example, there are two references to enuresis; one during acute illness, the other as a psychopathological symptom. The next on the first aspect is brief; it merely indicates the occurrence. The second appears under psychological abnormalities of growth. It commences: "This condition has been discussed elsewhere." Where? Perhaps the author is referring to other books on the subject, because the index at the back is no help. (The reviewer checked alternative headings: Toilet training refers to the same pages as enuresis and bed-wetting refers us back to the original heading.)

General practitioners in Britain and parts of the Commonwealth still play a major part in the child health services of their country. When they practice in groups at least one of them usually takes a special interest in children. For such a general practitioner this book would make a pleasant gift; it should be an addition to his library of books on children's diseases, not the foundation stone.

A textbook of psychosexual disorders. Second edition. CLIFFORD ALLEN, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.M. London. 1969. Oxford University Press. Pp. viii+478. Price £3 10s. (£3.50p).

For one who would unashamedly admit to being categorized as having an average or only slightly above average interest in psychiatry with general practice, it was with some apprehension that the reviewer started to read this book. However, it is eminently readable and Dr Allen does not hesitate to put forward his own sometimes controversial views. After reading the first few chapters the impression was that the review would have to finish with the statement that the book would be of some interest to general practitioners but few would wish to buy it. As he proceeded, however, he began to have doubts about this and wondered if general practitioners should be advised to buy it because it contains some topics relevant to the problem in practice. The latter section of the