

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 have 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