

Book reviews

Contraception and sexual life. L. P. D. TUNNADINE. London. Tavistock Publications. 1970. Pp. vii+80. Price £1.25. Paperback edition 60p.

Horses from the Tavistock stable generally give the punters a run for their money, and this little sprinter is no exception. It describes the experiences and results of a five-year training seminar undertaken by doctors working at a Family Planning Association clinic, the training side of the performance being under the expert supervision of Dr Tom Main. Events soon confirmed that family planning is by no means just a matter of pills and caps and temperature charts, and the eager searchers quickly found evidence of many, and often quite gross, difficulties in marital and sexual affairs. As their skill developed so did their ability to detect and assist in these matters and the results reported in this little book are a justification of the original thought and of the methods used in the experiment.

Those mere males who may read this book—and I hope there will be many—should be warned, however, that for them to attempt to copy exactly the methods used by these ladies would be to invite public shame and contumely at the hands of the GMC or even H.M. judges. These methods are strictly for the birds.

Dr Tunnadine is an engaging writer and reports with skill, compassion and earthy humour. Her style matches her subject and the book is delightfully easy to read. Only rarely does the airy-fairy so fatal to this kind of work creep in, and for most of the time the feet are kept firmly on the ground.

The book should be read by all general practitioners, and should be *required by law* to be read by all gynaecologists. Many unrepresented symptoms might thus be elicited, and many unnecessary surgical procedures avoided.

Paterson's sick children. REGINALD LIGHTWOOD, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., FREDERICK BRIMBLECOMBE, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.C.H., and DONALD BARLTROP, M.D., B.Sc., M.R.C.P., D.C.H. Bailliere, Tindall and Cassell Ltd. London. 1971. Ninth edition. Pp. 1+795. Price £4.75.

The ninth edition of this popular textbook adequately covers the whole range of paediatrics. Special sections are devoted to paediatric problems of the tropics and developing countries, and also to the intricacies of "Services and Legislation for Children". Clarity of style is retained despite multiple authorship and the compression required to encompass the whole subject in a volume of moderate proportions. There are over 150

illustrations and each chapter is followed by a short bibliography for further reading.

The description of coeliac disease has suffered somewhat in the compression process. The clinical picture is covered in less than seven lines; there is no detailed description of the gluten-free diet; little is said of the long-term prognosis and the possibility of return to normal diet in adult life. Similarly on page 292, the statement that children with congenital heart disease undergoing dental treatment should be "covered by penicillin" is less than adequate. This is a common problem confronting general practitioners and the exact timing and route of administration are important.

There are a number of minor typographic errors which in most cases are obvious and do not obscure the meaning. However under figure 75 "left" should read "right", on page 239 reference to "Appendix 3" should be to "Appendix 2", and on page 451 a cross-reference to page 525 should be to page 467. Likewise on page 337—"in healthy children the P-R interval is seldom more than 0.06 sec". This should, presumably, be "0.16 sec".

These criticisms on points of detail do not alter the overall impression that this is a first-class textbook of paediatrics, well suited to the needs of the general practitioner and reasonable value for its price.

The organisation of psychogeriatrics. M. D. ENOCH AND J. G. HOWELLS. Geigy (U.K.) Ltd. Pharmaceutical Division. 1971. Pp. 20. Price 25p.

This little booklet has less than 18 pages of text and so can be quickly and easily read by a busy doctor. It begins with a number of useful facts and figures making a good case for the greater availability of data regarding the over-65 population. It quotes some interesting observations on the importance of caring for the elderly at home as much as possible and integrating their care within the community. Similarly the authors describe medical home services and visualize these as a general practitioner team including a social worker. In the rest of the booklet there is an unfortunate tendency to ignore the rôle of the general practitioner and to write as if the entire responsibility of the over-65 population rested with the hospital services. On page 6 for example it is implied that the neuroses including psychosomatic conditions, reactive states and character disorders, are best managed by psychiatrists. Similarly they also suggest that all admissions to psychogeriatric units should only be after consultant screening either at home or on an outpatient basis. In this