way they appear to take a different policy from almost all other specialists.

It is clear that there is an urgent need for more papers from general practice outlining the rôle and scope of family care within the community, it is notable that none of this booklet's 25 references includes such a source.

Compendium of emergencies. Third edition. Edited by H. GARDINER-HILL, M.D., F.R.C.P. London. Butterworth & Co. 1971. Pp. 1 + 427. Price £4.40.

This book is written by specialists to enable non-specialists to cope with any emergency they may meet. It is thus of great value to general practitioners, casualty officers and any doctor who may find himself in a "desert island" situation for every conceivable emergency is described and mostly excellent advice given on its recognition and treatment. Over 20 specialists have contributed to the compendium and the method of presentation is so lucid that it can be read with enjoyment from cover to cover. The chapter on psychiatric emergencies is rather heavy-going.

Inevitably, opinions vary and the reviewer cannot approve or agree with all the advice given. Possibly because of the death of the author, lignocaine is not mentioned in the emergency treatment of cardiac irregularities following infarction. In the treatment of status epilepticus paraldehyde is no doubt effective but a nuisance to give as disposable syringes cannot be used. Diazepam (Valium) avoids this difficulty and is also effective. It was a surprise to find castor oil recommended for the treatment of urticaria "due to food sensitivity and accompanied by diarrhoea." Even more surprising was the prescription of steroids for the treatment of herpes zoster in school children. These are matters of opinion and in no way detract from the value of the book. It is a matter of fact, however, that the vesicles in chickenpox are usually not umbilicated.

The editor states that he has not edited to conformity. In spite of this the only conflicting advice is in the treatment of supraventricular tachycardias. The index has been carefully compiled to enable doctors to find relevant advice easily. Perhaps in future editions "Stokes-Adams" attacks and "cardiac asthma" could be listed. In view of the wealth of its contents, the compendium is by present standards not expensive and every general practitioner and casualty department would benefit greatly from possessing it.

The theory and practice of mental health consultation. GERALD CAPLAN, M.D., D.P.M. Tavistock Publications. 1970. Pp. xiii + 397. Price £3.25.

This book, by the director of the Laboratory of Community Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, is mainly about ways in which psychotherapeutically-minded psychiatrists can help non-psychiatrists who are 'caregivers'. These include other doctors, nurses, social workers, teachers, police, youth workers and clergymen. Dr Caplan describes how help may be given by a consultant to a consultee by discussion of individual cases, or to a caregiving organization by a study of its structure and potential followed by aid in mapping out a programme, and by giving insight into difficulties of interpersonal communication within the organization.

In a clearheaded way Dr Caplan outlines not only methods of help, but aims and goals and the theoretical concepts behind them, and he writes with lucidity and a minimum of psychiatric jargon.

Although this a specialist book, which is not designed for most family doctors, it will be of interest to those who are concerned to help students, nurses and social workers deal with the emotional problems of their patients. To all those interested in psychiatry, but who feel that it is insufficiently conceptualized and that psychiatrists are woolly minded, it could be a revelation.

Management and the health services. First edition. A. GATHERER and M. D. WARREN. Pergamon Press. 1971. 175 pages. Price £3.00.

The title of this book sounds dull and not appropriate to general practice and puts one in mind of the mystery of the workings of regional hospital boards and county halls. However, the content is stimulating and easily readable. The book consists of essays by ten authors, all distinguished in their own right, and covers a field much broader than that of management.

The chapters on "Change and the National Health Service" by Dr J. H. F. Brotherston and "Tomorrow's Community Physician" by Professor J. N. Morris draw our attention to the problems of the development of the Health Services during the past 20 years and to those problems that we shall have to face in the future.

The article on "Sociology and Medical Administration" by Professor M. Jefferys is the best argued and understandable description of the relationship of the sociologist with the medical profession that I have read.

The remaining seven chapters are directly related to the problems of management and the methods used to solve them. Is it worthwhile for the general practitioner to read and understand them? The answer must surely be—Yes, for two main reasons. First, changes of management policy in hospitals and by local authorities have a nasty habit of directly affecting the work load in general practice. Policies concerning early discharge after surgery or of increased care of the elderly at home are obvious examples. Secondly all the recent developments in general practice which this College puts under the broad heading of "Practice Organisation" have resulted from an understanding, sometimes intuitive, of