Calling the laboratory. Edited by W. A. R. THOMSON, M.D. (Editor of *The Practitioner*). Third Edition. London. Churchill Livingstone. 1971. Pp. 147. Price £1.50.

This book is a compilation of articles, with some additions for completeness, which have appeared in *The Practitioner* and were published as a separate collection because of popular demand. The opportunity has been taken to revise them and they represent an excellent up-to-date laboratory guide to general practitioners who have open access, as most now-a-days have. One wonders if it would not be wise to include tabulated summaries giving the main points of each test. This would make the work much more useful for quick reference. But for those who like to take up a book and read, when they are revising and bringing themselves into the latest ways, this book can hardly be bettered.

Management of renal failure. *The British Medical Bulletin.* Vol. 27, No. 2, May 1971. London. The British Council. Pp. 190. Price £2.

This issue of the British Medical Bulletin is devoted to one subject (except that renal transplantation is merely summarized) and deals exhaustively with all aspects of renal failure, covering such headings as surgical (acute and chronic), paediatric, tropical, with hypertension, with anaemia, antibiotics, radiology, dialysis, diet, hospital and home management. Each chapter is headed by a tabulated summary of its contents which is a most useful pointer to the ground it covers and aid to reference.

General practitioners who feel that they need a better understanding of what can be done in uraemic states will find much here to help them.

Fundamentals of exercise testing, by various authors. Geneva. World Health Organization. 1971. Pp. 7 + 133. Price £3.00.

This 130 page glossy paperback is a study of the mechanical, physiological and clinical implications of submaximal exercise testing. The book is well laced with facts, figures and formulae, diagrams, tables, many appendices and a comprehensive index. The chapters deal with the fundamentals of exercise physiology, types of exercise test and ergometers, safety precautions, environmental factors, clinical procedures, data collection and clinical evaluation of results.

The authors hope that this gathering of information on submaximal exercise testing will help in the assessment of physical fitness, rehabilitation, suitability for jobs, growth studies in children, population studies and related problems, and so they, the authors, recommend the book as a reference work to those without specialized knowledge who work in the fields of cardiology, epidemiology, public health and general practice and appropriate paramedial fields.

New directions in psycho-analysis. The significance of infant conflict in the pattern of adult behaviour. Edited by MELANIE KLEIN, PAULA HEIMANN and ROGER MONEY-KYRLE. London. Tavistock publications. 1971. Pp. 3 + 534. Price £1.05.

This is a paperback edition of a volume first published in 1955. The title might mislead: it is not a comprehensive review of advances in analysis, but a collection of 21 essays by the late Melanie Klein and her followers, all stimulated by her theories of infant emotional development. Eleven of these are reproduced from a special issue of the *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis* celebrating her 70th birthday, so it is not surprising that all the writers make a genuflexion in her direction.

One does not need to be in entire agreement with Klein's theories to see that they have provided growing points for thought in many directions, and the essays in this book show their application not only to personal analyses, but to such activities as painting, literature and works management. Melanie Klein was a powerful and original thinker. Whether or not one swallows her theories whole, one can not but admire her courage, honesty and devotion to her task, both in helping unhappy children and exploring the far boundaries of knowledge.

The book makes difficult but fascinating reading. It can be warmly recommended to those who are curious about the springs of human feelings and actions, though the reader should be warned that he needs to know, or be prepared to learn, the language (or should one say jargon?) of psychoanalysis.

Surgeon's decisions. H. L. DUTHIE, Professor of Surgery, University of Sheffield. Edinburgh. Oliver & Boyd. 1971. Pp. 1 + 112. Price 37½p.

The first chapter of this book deals with the education and training of the medical student from "O" levels to postgraduate degrees. Then follows a long section on surgical operations, major injuries, new growths, research in surgery etc. The last chapter is entitled "The Attitude of the Surgeon."

It is difficult to decide for whom this book is written. It begins by being a "vade-mecum" for the budding surgeon, describing in considerable detail schemes for specialist-training and the conditions laid down for the final Fellowship. This is followed by a plain man's guide to surgery and surgical problems in seven chapters, and finally there is a short section, which could well have been longer, on the philosophy of the practising surgeon.

The book is illustrated by a number of line drawings, not all of them very illuminating.