

in the Department of Forestry Genetics of the University of British Columbia. These trees have been shown to be hardy enough to stand the Canadian winter.

Professor W. C. Gibson of the Department of History of Medicine and Science, U.B.C., has kindly arranged for a stock of the seedlings to be sent to this country. At present they are about six inches high. After the first year they should make rapid growth. After an unknown number of centuries their parent's girth is over forty feet.

The Royal College of General Practitioners has agreed to help in the distribution of the seedlings. All who would like to plant a Hippocratic Plane are invited to write to the Administrative Secretary of the College. A subscription of £2.00 is requested so that a contribution can be made to the building programme of the International Hippocratic Foundation, which aims to rebuild the temple of Aesculapius as a meeting place for doctors from all over the world.

Subscribers will be able to grow a tree from a source unique in its medical associations. Distribution of young trees will begin in the autumn. To ensure against failure to thrive

two or three specimens will be sent to each subscriber; if they all survive, some of our friends too might enjoy having a Hippocratic Plane in their garden.

I look forward to a good response.

Sir,

I hope the reviewer of "Virgin Wives" in your issue of July will forgive me if I point out that it was Gilbert's fictional Duke of Plaza Toro who found it less exciting to lead his regiment from behind. The historical grand old Duke of York marched his army up the hill, and then marched down again.

East Meon, Hants.

FREWEN MOOR.

Cottage hospitals

In the letter from Dr. Dulake on the above subject, published in the journal (August 1971, page 495) that the Reigate Hospital 'had ceased to be a cottage hospital, in fact but not in name, in June 1971.' This should have read in June 1871.

Book reviews

Physiology for practitioners. Edited by IAN C. RODDIE, D.SC., M.D., F.R.C.P.I. Edinburgh and London. Churchill Livingstone. 1971. Pp. 202. Price £1.50.

This book is a reprint of 24 articles that appeared in *The Practitioner*. The individual contributions by a Belfast team, are essays that cover such subjects as cardiac performance, movements of the alimentary tract, energy balance, the physiology of the ear, muscle tone, the regulation of reproduction, control of body salt and water, and endocrinology. For the individual long out of touch with basic physiology, this book gives a clear, but necessarily brief, view of modern concepts covering a very wide field. For the enthusiast, the latest edition of Samson Wright still remains a must, but this survey fulfills a more modest need.

Textbook of medical treatment. 12th edition. STANLEY ALSTEAD, ALASTAIR G. MACGREGOR, RONALD H. GIRDWOOD. Edinburgh and London. Churchill Livingstone. 1971. Pp. v+694. Price £4.25.

Dunlop, Davidson and McNee was first published 30 years ago and several generations of doctors have benefited from its wisdom. Sir Derrick Dunlop is the last of the original editors to retire and we will have to get used to referring

to "Alstead, MacGregor and Girdwood" as the source of reference on therapeutics. Almost every review of previous editions has been favourable and who am I to contradict my predecessors?

I suppose that some of us are getting used to a more crisp style of writing. The modern tendency is for lists rather than an explanation, but this book would not be the same if it were radically altered. Its price, too, is remarkable. £4.25 for a 700-page book is, by 1971 standards, a bargain.

Cervical spondylosis. Second edition. Edited by M. WILKINSON, D.M., F.R.C.P. London. William Heinemann. 1971. Pp. 1+182. Price £3.00.

There are many things in the medical scene today which did not exist in my professional boyhood, and one of these is cervical spondylosis. Now, when every third person in the street is wearing a cervical collar, it is obviously a common condition, but it was not widely recognized in my student days.

This book is edited by Dr Marcia Wilkinson, who herself writes four of the nine chapters. Her contributions comprise the historical introduction and the sections of pathology, symptomatology, differential diagnosis and prognosis. Professor Ruth Bowden deals with the applied anatomy,