

Infections During Pregnancy."

Dr Grob shows us, and three excellent photographs help to prove his thesis, how a keen general practitioner who makes a good link with his public health laboratory can create, within his own surgery premises, the simple "virus hunting" apparatus which will enable samples of virus infected specimens to reach the laboratory in a state where isolation of the virus is frequently possible. Dr Grob also gives us a valuable table (pp. 126-127) describing clearly the clinical syndromes most frequently associated with the various virus and other infective organisms to be considered in the differential diagnosis. This will be well worth copying out for reference by anyone who cannot buy this book. The other essays cover a wide field of virology and include Dr A. N. Griffiths on "Viral Vaccines", and Dr C. E. D. Taylor on "The Use of the Virological Laboratory". Dr I. Phillips writes on "Gastroenteritis", and Dr P. G. Higgins deals with "Virus Infections of the Skin and Mucous Membranes", including some fine clinical photographs of lesions of many illnesses in this group, of which the skin lesions in foot and mouth disease are striking.

The whole book is orientated towards practical clinical readers, and all concerned are to be congratulated on this clear presentation of a subject of profound importance to all of us and to our children, as the chapter by Dr P. S. Gardner on "Acute Respiratory Virus Infections of Childhood", makes abundantly plain.

This little volume is probably the most valuable contribution to date for the general practitioner, who is usually the clinician first faced with the complex task of sorting out virus infections, both in epidemic form or as isolated diseases such as the herpetic manifestations of cell infections with virulent viruses. If we sometimes complain about the frequency with which the laboratory reports negative findings, this well-bound and well-printed book will prove a most valuable and also an inexpensive investment.

Preventive medicine, community health and social services. Second edition. J. B. MEREDITH DAVIES, M.D., D.P.H. London: Bailliere, Tindall and Cassell Ltd. 1971. Pp. 2+331. Price £1.75.

This is essentially a reference book, and should therefore be judged on the efficiency of the index as a guide to the information between the covers. Literary style is not important in this instance, though Dr Meredith Davies has managed to make the factual information readable and interesting. The index is clear, concise and accurate, though one exception is information about the Guthrie test which is wrongly indexed.

The reviewer has judged the content by thinking of those problems which have confronted him during the week:

Information about the availability of anti-D

serum in rhesus incompatibility; whether a traveller to India could be given smallpox vaccine and cholera vaccine on the same day; and what social worker could help a mother of three children with an ineffectual husband who was depressed and disorganized after a house removal to a new redevelopment area.

He could not find the answers to the first two questions in the book, and it appeared that possibly the mental health officer could help solve the third problem. The almost complete absence of information about general dental services seemed a strange omission. All the answers cannot be contained in one volume, however, and this is a useful reference book for medical students and doctors, social workers and health visitors.

Bedside diagnosis. Ninth edition. CHARLES SEWARD, M.D., F.R.C.P. Edinburgh and London. Churchill Livingstone. 1971. Pp. vii+537. Price £3.00.

This fully revised edition of Dr Charles Seward's well known and widely translated book has received editorial assistance from Dr David Mattingly and, in its specialized aspects, from several of Dr Seward's colleagues. Lord Cohen of Birkenhead in a foreword congratulates Dr Seward on the results of his labours, and many who have seen previous editions will wish to add their thanks for this fresh new text. Dr G. H. Hall has rewritten the chapter on 'Drugs Considered as Causes of Symptoms', and has also contributed a short chapter on 'Causes of Coma'.

The West Country is rightly proud of this book, with its cultured but ever modest approach to the arts of diagnosis; yet the spirit of Sir James Mackenzie, general practitioner and consultant, whose influence has so fully permeated Dr Seward's teaching, still shines out from these pages. We can but hope that future editions, with increasing editorial dilution will not dim this essential quality.

Under the, as yet, unfamiliar imprint of Churchill Livingstone lies a long association, gratefully acknowledged by the author, with the great publishing firm of E. & S. Livingstone. This book is very well produced, and is still easy on the pocket, both to carry and to buy.

Seventh symposium on advanced medicine. Edited by IAN A. D. BOUCHIER, M.D., F.R.C.P. London. Pitman Medical Publishing. 1971. Pp. 345. Price £3.00.

Doctors will be grateful for the speed with which the papers from this distinguished symposium have been made available at moderate cost in this paperback edition. They were given at The Royal College of Physicians of London in February of this year, and each of the 32 papers in this Seventh Symposium is a distinguished contribution to a series which follows the pattern of earlier conferences. The 'recent advances' emphasized on