

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

this occasion concern six areas of disease: The cardiovascular system, genetics in medicine, disorders of the nervous system, stress in society, haematology and renal disease.

In the session on genetics, The Lumleian Lecture given by Dr J. A. Fraser Roberts took for its title 'Genetics in Medicine', and Professor C. A. Clarke gave a clear and fascinating paper on 'Prevention of Rh Immunization'. Dr J. H. Edwards, professor of human genetics at the Birmingham Maternity Hospital, served notice to us all of a wide field in which our patients will shortly look to their general practitioners for wise and informed guidance on matters of vital importance in their personal genetic problems. Professor Edwards spoke on 'Foetal Diagnosis in Genetic Disease', and although certain of the diseases he mentions are rare, the whole field of these linkage studies offers a great challenge to those whose chosen life gives them the privilege of living among and knowing the families who will with increasing frequency be having these problems clarified by experts.

In the grave final decisions raised by the prenatal diagnosis of serious inherited disease it is unthinkable that the family doctor should not be fully informed upon the issues and the responsibilities involved in matters that may deny life to an affected foetus, after diagnosis at a very early stage of pregnancy. This paper alone will make many wish to read and own this inexpensive book which is full of new knowledge and much wisdom.

The anticipation of hereditary disorders by identification of traits and structures, often trivial in themselves yet genetically associated or gene-linked to grave heritable illnesses, will increasingly attract those in practice who realize the opportunities of observation and record, over many years and several generations, sufferers who attend our crowded clinics. Here will lie the sure foundations of much future research in general practice.

Another session in which general-practitioner consultation is important was dealt with under the chairmanship of Sir Denis Hill, 'Stress in Society'. Here was discussed in excellent papers the reaction of the individual to stress, serving to underline the importance of the patient's reactions to the pressures of modern society as well as to the processes of disease. Problems of the hidden aspects of an all too common problem were well set out by Professor H. J. Walton in a paper 'Alcoholism in Britain'.

Dr H. Matthews gave a lecture on 'Self Poisoning', and reproduces in his figure I, (page 183) the quite vertical graph line showing the vast increase in admissions of poisoned patients to the

Edinburgh Royal Infirmary during the years 1928 to 1970, a reflection of a great failure of our ability to help many of our troubled and insecure patients in our imperfect yet ever advancing search for human happiness.

There is very much more within these closely packed pages that the reader must find for himself. The book cannot be too highly recommended to all who have the responsibility of carrying advanced medical knowledge into the practical daily round of general practice.

Music and the physically handicapped. Report of the Joint Study Conference. April 1970. Disabled Living Foundation: London. Pp. 3+64. Price 50p.

This is the report of a study conference held at the Goldsmiths' Hall, London, 6 April 1970 and sponsored jointly by the Disabled Living Foundation (which has taken over the work of the Disabled Living Activities Group of the Central Council for the Disabled) and the National Council of Social Service.

The enjoyment of music—and, still more, the making of music as part of a team—can play important rôles in keeping the physically handicapped, including the senior citizen, as an integral part of the community. The activities of local authorities in trying to foster the cultural interests of their handicapped citizens vary—for example of the 149 local education authorities in England, 29 have no music adviser; in Scotland the corresponding figure is seven out of thirty six.

How to enable the handicapped to take part in cultural pursuits—and *take part* are the key words here, mere onlooking or listening is not enough—is no easy problem, for example the provision of suitable transport from home to cultural centre or again, access to the concert hall by the occupant of the wheel-chair are but two of many such problems. But the adage attributed (rightly or wrongly) to Lord Montgomery of Alamein is applicable here—"The difficult we do at once, the impossible takes a little longer".

BOOKS RECEIVED

People and cancer and the problem and relevance in cancer research. Two meetings. Edited by Dr GRAHAM BENNETTE. London. The British Cancer Council. Pp. 5 + 112.

Biochemical values in clinical medicine. Fourth Edition. ROBERT DUNCAN EASTHAM, B.A., M.D., F.R.C.Path., D.C.P. Bristol. John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1971. Pp. 1+191. Price £1.00.