

suffer from the psychological difficulties enumerated in the book. Fatigue following prolonged states of tension, excitement or frustration, is probably the commonest psychological determinant of an attack. As pointed out in the book, it can be a learned reflex response to situations and stimuli which have provoked previous attacks.

The final paragraph expresses the hope—'If this booklet has taught you to stop worrying about "allergies" then it has fulfilled its task'. The reviewer is, himself, allergic and hopes that he does not worry too much about it, but it is feared he may start to do so if his patients were to ask him to explain parts of this book.

The booklet has no index.

**Legal abortion. The English experience.** First edition. ANTHONY HORDERN, M.D., F.R.C.P., M.R.C.P., D.P.M. Oxford. Pergamon Press Ltd. 1971. Pp. v+289. Price £3.75.

This publication written by a consultant psychiatrist at a London teaching hospital reminds us immediately of the intense interest in the subject of abortion in this country in recent years.

The author has collected a mammoth list of 498 references, of which over 300 date from the years 1969 and 1970. But mercifully, the pace may even now be slackening, as of the 300 odd, 1970 provided only just over a third. Perhaps we are thinking more and writing less? The book gives a comprehensive survey of the situation leading up to and since the passing of the abortion Act in 1968.

The early chapters cover the attitudes and customs which lay behind the demand for clarification of the law and the broadening of its scope. These are followed by a chapter on the various methods of termination of pregnancy and the main part of the book is devoted to an account in considerable detail of the way the Act has affected society and its successes and failure, much of it quoted direct from the lay press.

There is a departure from the scope suggested in the title by the inclusion of a 50-page chapter on abortion problems in other countries, but this makes interesting reading and well illustrates the fact that however handled the unwanted pregnancy poses its problems.

As is to be expected in a work with so many references, the opinion of others are given ample scope, but one wishes the author had treated us to more of his own views with their foundation in his wide clinical experience. The book will be useful to doctors in a general way and for its lavish bibliography, but its main appeal will be to those "looking in from the outside", as it were, and to legislators and social workers in countries where new laws on abortion are under consideration.

**Obstetrics for the family doctor.** Second edition. DAVID BROWN, F.R.C.O.G. London. Pitman Medical Publishing. 1971. Pp. i + 179. Price: £1.25.

This is a paperback second edition of David Brown's book on obstetrics for the general practitioner. At Chelmsford he has one of the best postgraduate obstetric educational centres in the country. He is very well aware of general-practitioner needs. His annual report on the obstetrics of his area shows that over 54 per cent of all deliveries in the area are under general-practitioner care, either in the home or in general-practitioner units, and the proportion is rising.

This book makes no attempt to be a textbook of obstetrics. On the contrary it is concise and dogmatic, giving the general practitioner a sound and feasible method of dealing with whatever problem presents. There may be other methods which would be equally good, but the follower of David Brown will know at least one which will suffice. There is one new chapter on The Postnatal Examination; the old have been carefully revised and brought up to date regarding new developments since the first edition was published in 1966. It is an excellent guide for the family doctor who wishes to look after his own maternity cases or those of his group, to deal with them himself as far as he is able and to call for specialist assistance at the appropriate time.

**Visits to doctors.** First edition. K. J. MANN, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.T.M.H., JACK H. MEDALIE, M.B., CH.B., B.SC., M.P.H., ELINOR LIEBER, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., J. J. GROEN, M.D. AND LOUIS GUTTMAN, PH.D. Israel. Published by the Jerusalem Academic Press. 1971. Pp. 7+335. Price £0.00.

This book is a detailed report on the work done in a health centre in a new suburb of Jerusalem. The patients comprised a large number of immigrants in a developing community. The doctors providing general-practitioner care worked in teams of two and were supported by an average of one and a half nurses per doctor and a changing population of supporting workers, including at times a caseworker, a clinical psychologist and a statistician. The medical work was under the direction of Dr Medalie who is chairman and professor of family medicine at Tel Aviv University Medical School. The principal objectives of the centre were to provide personal medical care centred on the family. Continuity of care was recognized as being important and was one of the reasons for the structure of the two-doctor team. The objective, as in this country today, was to provide physical, psychological and social medicine simultaneously. Subjects like family planning were specifically mentioned as being within the rôle of these doctors. The work-load for the individual physicians was of the order of 300-400 families, but in addition they did a substantial