

of thought and behaviour, and together these can decide their susceptibility to disease. However, here again they omit to make the point that these very facts justify the advantage to the patient of having one doctor normally concerned with the family as a unit. The family doctor is the main alternative name for general practitioner in this country and family physician the normal title of the generalist in Canada.

General practitioners will read with interest the analysis of the difference between them and their hospital colleagues on page 189, "In sum, the pressures in the community situation of the practitioner directs his attention to the personal needs of his patients, but may isolate him professionally, and preclude constant reference to the scientific judgement of colleagues. On the other hand, the pressures in the hospital situation of the specialist maintain his technical competence, and divert his attention from the personal needs of patients. These orientations among doctors have material consequences for their patients. For, while the mistakes of general practice often seem to arise from technical failures, the mistakes of hospital practice often do so from failures of communication".

All in all it can be said that this is the best book on medical sociology that we know.

Today's drugs 2. New Series. Specially commissioned articles from the *British Medical Journal*. London: British Medical Association. 1971. Pp. 3+204. Price £1.00.

This second volume of a proposed series of three paperback editions maintains the promise, the standard and the usefulness of the first. Nowadays advance of knowledge and the appearance of new valuable drugs is so rapid that standard textbooks of therapeutics are out of date before they appear. Even in these volumes which represent specifically commissioned articles from the *British Medical Journal*, revision has been undertaken before publication in this book form.

The first volume dealt with anti-infective agents, vitamins and drugs on the blood, and psychotropic agents and not only gave an account of the various preparations but had useful articles on the management of common conditions such as urinary infections and epilepsy.

The second volume follows a similar format. In the first section there are articles on hormones and contraceptives, and included are two on

management, one being on the treatment of thyrotoxicosis and the other, a most useful one to the practising general practitioner, on changing oral contraceptives, a prescribing problem with which he is sometimes faced.

The next section deals with cardiovascular agents and perhaps of topical interest is that on drugs for arrhythmias. In this are described the use of lignocaine and the new beta-adrenergic blocking agents.

The final section describes gastro-intestinal drugs. There is perhaps less new in this part of the book, but the articles make useful summaries. The final two subjects depart from the pattern of the description of drugs, the majority of which are in solid form. These two articles deal with fluids for intravenous infusion and solutions for intravenous feeding.

This book can be recommended. The articles are practical, not over-detailed and succinct—and should the third volume, now in course of preparation, follow the same pattern, its appearance will be as welcome as the first two.

Books Received

Illness and general practice. BENT GUTTORM BENTSEN, M.D. Universitets for Laget. Oslo-Bergen-Tronisö. 1970. Pp. 192. Price \$16. Distributed in U.K. by Cannon House, Park Farm Road, Folkestone, Kent.

Drugs, society and personal choice. HAROLD KALANT and ORIANA JOSSEAU KALANT. Don Mills, Ontario. 1971. Paperbacks. Pp. 1+160. Price \$1.95.

The Nuffield Foundation. Twenty-fifth Report. Oxford. University Press. 1971.

Medical Treatment. A textbook of therapy in four volumes. Volume Four. Edited by KENNETH MACLEAN, M.D., F.R.C.P. and GEORGE SCOTT, M.D., F.R.C.P. London. J. & A. Churchill. 1971. Pp. v + 1,073. Price £2.25.

WHO CHRONICLE, special issue on vector control. Geneva. World Health Organization. May 1971. Pp. 199+245. Price 20p.

Health education index and guide to voluntary agencies. Compiled and edited by BRIAN EDSALL. London B. Edsall & Co. Ltd. 1971-72. Price £3.75 hard cover; £2.25 soft cover.