

deficiencies in training and partly from a tendency in practice to regard this area as the sole preserve of the dentist. Nevertheless, a considerable number of systemic conditions which are of major concern in general practice do produce lesions in the mouth of considerable diagnostic importance. This book is an atlas. Half of it consists of pictures of the more important lesions in this area. The opposite page provides a brief diagnostic description of the lesion. Advice on management or treatment is not attempted. On the whole, the quality of the reproductions is good and the book can be recommended as a useful addition to the practice library.

Clinical chemistry in diagnosis and treatment.

ZILVA, JOAN F., M.D., F.R.C.P., M.R.C.Path. and PANNALL, P. R., M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.Path. Pp. 408. London: Lloyd-Luke Medical Books Limited. Price: £2.50.

The interest of general practitioners in laboratory facilities is steadily growing. In recent years, largely due to the persistent efforts of the British Medical Association and the Royal College of General Practitioners, the policy of achieving "open access" to laboratory and x-ray facilities has been increasingly implemented. A number of recent papers have reported that the use made by

general practitioners of laboratory facilities is growing at a rate of about ten per cent compound. Nevertheless, it remains true that about three-quarters of all general practitioner requests arise from only a quarter of practitioners. Furthermore, many general practitioner requests are concerned with simple haematology and there is some evidence that practitioners are not fully aware of the help in diagnosis that can be obtained in the biochemical field.

A number of books are now available dealing with this subject which is usually called either chemical pathology or clinical chemistry. This is one of the latest and one of the best. It has the advantage, compared with some of its competitors, of being published in 1971 and is certainly up to date. Not all practitioners will be able to use some of the information as not all area laboratories will be able to provide the tests described, particularly in the field of hyperlipoproteinaemia. The authors throw some doubt on the value of the plasma iron estimation, which some general practitioners have been requesting more in recent years. They state that the plasma iron may reach "very low levels just before or during the menstrual period" and conversely may rise in women taking oral contraceptives. In general, we believe this is one of the best books now available for general practitioners on this subject.

CRIPPS POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL CENTRE
NORTHAMPTON GENERAL HOSPITAL

COURSE IN

GENERAL MEDICINE

A refresher course for General Practitioners will be held from 1—5 May, 1972 inclusive. The registration fee for the course will be £5. Accommodation will be arranged if necessary.

The course will comprise half-day sessions in rheumatology, geriatrics, cardiology, respiratory diseases and gastro-enterology, together with other sessions which will include case demonstrations, ward rounds, etc. All sessions will be chaired by General Practitioners and emphasis will be placed on discussion.

Numbers will be limited to 24 and the course has been approved under Section 63 of the National Health Service Act, 1968.

Full details can be obtained from the Clinical Tutor, Cripps Postgraduate Medical Centre, General Hospital, Northampton to whom applications should be made.
