

secondary specialist, care; for a systematic working routine in general practice; and for 'full' diagnoses, comprising somatic, psychodynamic and social components. "Only when all three are taken into account" he writes "do we get a full picture of the patient's situation".

This work is a major contribution to the literature of general practice. Pinsent, in his introduction, to the book, refers to it as "a work of scholarship which will be read, referred to, and respected by colleagues throughout the world". A fitting and worthy comment.

H. J. WRIGHT

The Use of Cannabis (1971). World Health Organisation Technical Report Series No. 478 Geneva: World Health Organisation.

It would be surprising if the WHO had not produced an authoritative lucid summary of the present state of knowledge of the use of cannabis. The report discusses some of the characteristics of the user of cannabis, its effects on man, and suggests what further research is needed. It is pointed out that the great majority of cannabis users never proceed to the use of morphine-type drugs. There are likely to be important socio-cultural and personal factors which contribute to any apparent progressions from cannabis use to other dependence-producing drugs. The type of person who is a "moderate" user of cannabis is different from the "heavy" user.

The immediate and delayed effects of cannabis are described. The acute reactions tend to be dose-dependent. The review of literature suggested that the degree and nature of any relationships that may exist between the prolonged and or intensive use of cannabis and various long-term effects has not been established. The authors were of the opinion that many regular users of cannabis exhibit psychic dependence, as do some less frequent but relatively "heavy" users, but the great majority of people who use it only occasionally do not exhibit psychic or any other dependence on cannabis. Further research is needed to establish evidence of tolerance and physical dependence.

This report is not designed as a textbook for general practitioners and certainly does not fulfil this purpose, despite the comprehensive review of almost 200 references. I consider that there are other books on drug abuse in this country which would be more useful for the general practitioner who only rarely sees the effects of cannabis in a medical context.

R. H. WILKINS

Radology for general practitioners and medical students (1971). SUTTON, DAVID, Second edition. Pp. 101. Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone. Price: £1.25.

Twelve articles for *The Practitioner* were republished in book form in 1965. A further chapter was added in 1971 when the whole text was revised for the second edition.

Unfortunately, the 13 chapters do not make a book. Each chapter or pair of chapters deals with an organ or body system but the sub-headings have no consistent framework, being variously divided according to anatomy, method of radiological investigation, clinical purpose or diagnosis. Small print is used sometimes to describe a technique, sometimes to give lists and sometimes to paraphrase other work. The use of italics defies classification even within the same sub-heading. The English language is on occasions hammered into submission by specialist enthusiasm, P.2. "neuroradiological techniques have been perfected and improved", P.3. "the radiologist's armamentarium", and only too rarely does the author blossom into a personal style, P.45 "the whole renal circulation can be beautifully demonstrated... This is the method I prefer."

There are 82 x-ray illustrations, which are sometimes two pages out of phase with the text. Most of the x-rays illustrate the text in a clear manner but gall stones are "shown floating" (Fig. 19B) whilst in the narrative they "sediment" —which is confusing to the non-specialist.

One reference is given and there is no glossary. This, to say the least, is inadequate when the text is studded with opinions and with names in a manner appropriate to "night ride".

Occasionally (P.44 on renal x-rays) the author forgets the audience that he believes himself to be addressing and gives a concise account of a procedure, a comparison with other methods, a discussion on the relevance to clinical management and even a brief explanation of why the malfunction of the body produces a particular x-ray picture. This shows great promise for a companion volume aimed at consultants and nurses but in the meantime "it behoves the practitioner" (P.23) not only to be aware of the complications of cortisone therapy, as advised, but also to look elsewhere for a book that will be helpful to him in practice.

R. LEFEVER