

For example, not everyone will agree with the statement "A session which lasts for less than 30 minutes scarcely has the opportunity of beginning before time has come for it to finish."

I found the chapters *Patients with difficult problems* and *Problems with difficult patients*, thought-provoking and particularly helpful, although discussion earlier in the book about the selection of patients, produced in me the unfair reaction "It's alright for some—we have to cope with everyone."

There is a strong feeling of commonsense, which other doctors often claim is deficient in psychotherapists, running through this book which is typified for me by the cardinal principle from the final chapter on termination "When all is finished take care of the conscious and leave the unconscious to take care of itself."

I believe that an understanding of the techniques described in this book, and an ability to modify them appropriately to the consultation in general practice, is essential if general practitioners are to be able to form diagnoses simultaneously in physical, psychological, and social terms.

There are other books about the use of those psychotherapeutic techniques particularly suitable to general practice which are more important to general practitioners.

R. HILLMAN

General Practice for Students of Medicine (1975).
R. HARVARD DAVIS. London: Academic Press. Price: £2.20.

General practice has been introduced into the clinical curriculum of most medical schools, but

the literature on this subject has been aimed at postgraduate study and the vocational trainee.

This slim paperbacked book is one of a new series of monographs for students of medicine. The author is in charge of the General Practice Unit of the Welsh National School of Medicine and so is well qualified to write an introductory book on the topic of family medicine. He has succeeded so well that this book will be of value to vocational trainees as well as undergraduates.

The first half of the book deals with the principles involved in the delivery of medical care with an outline of the way in which this care is financed; it then deals with the development of the health service as it affects the general practitioner.

While this is the logical way to approach a subject as vast as primary care, I feel that much of the information in this half of the book will be of most value to the vocational trainee and I hope that the undergraduate will not be too daunted by it.

The second half of the book deals in outline with the more clinical aspects of general practice and the consultation. The author also covers medical care in other countries and the structure of reorganisation of the health service. In fact, there will be many family doctors who might find the clear diagrams in this latter chapter of help in showing what has happened to the administration since the advent of such abbreviations as AHA and DMT!

This book can unreservedly be recommended to any student of primary medical care and should find a place on the shelves of every medical school library.

K. J. BOLDEN
