

of appointed general-practitioner trainers, the number of trainee practitioners in post, and the number of new principals receiving the vocational training allowance for the first time.

It makes the point that the number of appointed general-practitioner trainers is now about 1,200, which for the first time has therefore reached the number of doctors first becoming principals. It notes with regret that only a sixth of the new entrants to general practice have completed full three-year vocational training (i.e. about 200) and that about half will have spent a year as a trainee practitioner. There are, of course, 1974 figures and the position should have improved considerably since then.

These three chapters at least are well worth reading by all those general practitioners who take part in the organisation and administration of the Health Service, through local medical committees, district management teams, health authorities, or the health care planning teams.

D. J. PEREIRA GRAY

**Personal View (1975).** Ed. STEPHEN LOCK. Pp. 17 + 302. London: British Medical Association. Price: £3. (including postage).

Rarely does the reviewer receive a book which causes him to burn the bedside lamp far into the night, and to occasion rebuke from the party of the second part for his disturbing chuckles, sighs of appreciation, and snorts of disapprobation. This selection from the long series of *Personal Views* published over the years in the *British Medical Journal* did just that to me.

The editor has selected 100 examples from about 500, and has chosen well. They are all short essays, most can be read in five minutes and the rest in under ten: the perfect bedside material, but it is difficult to read one without catching the title of another and being absolutely forced to unwrap *that* parcel. It is as seductive as a dictionary of quotations.

In any anthology one has to accept the rough with the smooth—no editor can please everybody—he must please himself and hope for the best. This editor has done the customers proud, and it would be a dull doctor indeed who did not find himself fascinated by the great variety of subjects and the great originality of thought which many of the authors show. Protean is the word.

One is astonished how well, how elegantly, so many doctors can write when they are astride their hobby horse or venting their spleen or just gently ruminating over time lost and days past. Why don't more doctors write more?

The accurate description of the book as a paperback scarcely does it credit. The paper and typography are of the highest order and pleasant to handle, and it will look well on any bookshelf.

This, ladies, is the ideal present for Master—provided always that you can tolerate the midnight lamp, the infuriating chuckle, and that occasional angry snort.

J. MILES

**The Family Physician—Proceedings of the International Workshop of Family Medicine** September 1972. Special Edition. Herzliya: Israel.

One of the characteristics of an expanding discipline is that it becomes difficult to keep abreast of the developments in different countries and in different aspects of the discipline. We are at present spectators of and to a lesser extent contributors to intensive inquiry and research into education in general practice, into the organisation of primary care, and into its potential for research. The International Workshop of Family Medicine held in Israel in 1972 was concerned with studying these three aspects of family practice in the context of international medicine.

The proceedings of the Workshop give a fascinating account of the views of those involved in general practice from both an academic and practical viewpoint, and represent the "state of play" in 1972. No doubt opinions have changed or have been modified by further study and researches in the three and a half years since the Workshop. Nevertheless, it is of value to have some base line of international thinking and this the proceedings present in admirable fashion. Although of particular interest to those involved in academic general practice this book should be available for reference to all concerned with the practice and philosophy of family practice and with the education of future practitioners.

J. H. BARBER

**Treatment Room Nursing (1976).** JACKA, S. M. & GRIFFITHS, D. G. Oxford: Blackwell. Pp. 155. Price: £5.50.

The demands made by doctors on their practice nurses vary widely from practice to practice, but are certainly increasing, so that the practice nurse is playing an increasingly important part in the care of patients. Many of the procedures a practice nurse is asked to carry out will not have been covered in her general training, and it is up to the general practitioner to ensure that his nurse is familiar with all aspects of her job. There is no substitute for practical experience, but a book covering much of the work involved in treatment room nursing would be of value in any treatment room.

A wide variety of topics is covered, ranging from brief notes on planning and equipping a treatment room to the application of a plaster-of-paris splint. Procedures are well indexed, being divided into diagnostic and therapeutic, with very few omissions. However, a fair amount of rather basic knowledge is included (how to weigh and measure a patient, take blood pressure, give injections) while the importance of listening to a patient is never mentioned. Despite this, there is no difficulty in understanding the procedures, with step-by-step instructions, and much practical advice on the