

Treatment of the Failing Heart. DR MICHAEL HAMILTON.

Although the delivery is soporific, interest is immediately aroused by the skilful description of the rarer causes of heart failure. Dr Hamilton's views on the use of ganglion-blocking agents in hypertensive heart failure are controversial but well-substantiated.

The *causes* of auricular fibrillation are only slightly discussed, as are valvular and other diseases of the heart. The treatment of heart failure by rest and digitalis is described in a standard fashion, and mersalyl, chlorthiazide, diamox, aminophyllin and low-salt diet are well discussed. The use of long-term tetracyclines (for bronchitics) might alarm cost-conscious practitioners.

The recording is well worth listening to for its clear description of electrolyte imbalance in heart failure. BAL, acupuncture, antithyroids, and ion-exchange resins are briefly described and complete a thorough survey of the subject. Not for lowbrow audiences. Time 29 minutes.

The Diagnosis and Treatment of Anaemia in General Practice.

DR D. G. FRENCH.

To give a succinct yet comprehensive account of the diagnosis and treatment of anaemia in general practice in a talk lasting only twenty-five minutes is no easy task but Dr French has succeeded admirably in this recording. The Sahli haemoglobinometer has been a useful tool to successive generations of general practitioners, and it is encouraging to be reassured that it is still a useful tool despite the advent of the grey-wedge photometer. Dr French rightly condemns the practice of giving grapeshot haemotinic agents (especially those containing liver and cyanocobolamin) to patients suffering from undiagnosed anaemia. This excellent recording should enjoy a wide circulation. Time 27 minutes.

The Coroner and the General Practitioner. Dr R. I. MILNE, Hon. Secretary, The Coroners' Society.

Dr Milne elucidates in a clear and forthright manner the duties of the ancient and honourable office of Coroner, and shows that he is not a "bogey man".

This recording should appeal to all practitioners as it contains much valuable material not readily available in the standard medical jurisprudence text books. This serious subject is lightened by several anecdotes and by statements such as that, if the cause of death is given as septicaemia without further details, the Registrar must inform the Coroner that a criminal abortion has occurred, regardless of the age and sex of the patient.

Time: 34 minutes.