The Principles and Practice of Medicine. Edited by SIR STANLEY DAVIDSON, B.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., Edin., F.R.C.P., Lond., M.D., Oslo, F.R.S., Edin. Fifth edition. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd, Edinburgh and London. Pp. v + 1,112. Price 35s. 0d.

Every second year a new edition of this popular textbook appears. This in itself is a testimony of its great popularity. It is well produced and easy to handle. For students and those reading for examinations it could hardly be bettered. For the practitioner in active practice it will prove a handy refresher book but if he wants to find out any great detail about specific disease syndromes he may be disappointed. Although 45 extra pages of text have been added the price remains the same.

Psychiatry in General Practice. J. A. WEIJEL, M.D. Elsevier Publishing Company, Australia, 1959. Pp. 208. Price 37s. 6d.

The title of this thoughtful and stimulating book is somewhat misleading, in that the field inferred is not wholly covered. More than a quarter of the book is concerned with the advocacy of a psychosocial questionnaire which was evolved by Dr Weijel, a Dutch psychiatrist working in the team of Dr Querido which produced such a revolutionary change in the psychiatric services in Amsterdam. This list of some 76 questions was intended for the use of examining interns in Amsterdam hospitals. He regards it as a sort of psychological stethoscope, designed to permit the doctor to evaluate the patient's life patterns in a way that would be fairly superficial and not embarrassing or hurtful to the patient. Dr Weijel thinks this questionnaire would be useful also to the family doctor. He makes frequent reference to Balint's now famous book *The doctor, the patient and the illness*, but he does not quote from it " If you ask questions, you get answers, but hardly anything else ". Many experienced family doctors may feel that the rigidities of a formal questionnaire are not the only or the best way to approach emotional problems.

The remainder of the book contains much of interest, on subjects such as the organization of the illness by patient and doctor, a philosophical discussion of terminology (hard going, this), the type of training in psychology and psychiatry a medical student should have, the importance of making a diagnosis before starting treatment, and the difference in the psychotherapeutic methods of a psychiatrist and a general practitioner.

This book, the product of a keen and sincere mind, will be of thought-provoking interest to all family doctors who are concerned with their patients' emotional problems.