

General Practitioners to know which procedures to apply in what order and at what age, and how best to infect the mothers of the infants with sufficient enthusiasm to complete the various courses of injections.

The gathering consisted of some 60 persons, most of them experts in a particular field that included some aspect of child immunization. There were medical officers of health, school medical officers, general practitioners, paediatricians, epidemiologists, statisticians, representatives from infectious diseases hospitals, from laboratories, from interested departments overseas and from the Ministry of Health. Almost every aspect of immunization theory and technique was covered in four sessions, the last of which dealt with immunization programmes. A fifth session was devoted to extracting a practical result from the deliberations of the symposium, and as is well known it produced two alternative schedules for immunization, of which the second has been acclaimed as serviceable by Public Health Authorities and general practitioners.

The present volume is an excellent account of the deliberations of the symposium and is standard reading for anybody who wants to know the pros and cons of different sorts of immunization, the right method of sterilizing syringes, the possibilities of quadruple vaccine including poliomyelitis with diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough, and a hundred and one other interesting aspects of the subject of immunization. It is seldom that a symposium is so well organized, well held and well reported, and leads to such a useful and succinct conclusion. It is to be hoped that general practitioners will not feel that this book is solely for the public health man. Any general practitioner could profit by reading it, and would have much pleasure and amusement in the course of his instruction.

Maternal and Child Welfare. The Role of the General Practitioner. J. M. LAST, M.B., B.S. Adelaide. The Medical Journal of Australia. 1960. Vol. 1. Pp. 728—730.

The author describes the background of the average young mother in Australia, native or immigrant, discussing the part to be played by the general practitioner in relation to infant nutrition, ante- and postnatal care, and the mental health of mother and child. He points out that detailed advice on infant feeding from the general practitioner is now rarely required as it is easily obtainable elsewhere. He stresses the need for ante- and postnatal care, including moral support, together with the elimination of postnatal disabilities which may prevent the mother from devoting to her children the care

needed to give them a good start in life. The importance of the family as the fundamental unit of society is recognized, and also the importance of resistance to pressures likely to disrupt it by the medical profession and its ancillary services.

Family Planning. J. F. ROBINSON, M.B., CH.B. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone. 1960. Pp. 63. Price 3s. 6d.

Dr Robinson has tackled the subject of family planning in this booklet by using ample illustration. His written style is lucid, explaining the safe period with its limitations and all the commonly used contraceptive techniques. There is even a section on the possible harmful aspects of contraception.

This booklet can be freely recommended to all those couples wishing for a deeper understanding of the subject without demanding lengthy explanations from the family doctor in person.

Disc Lesions and Other Intervertebral Derangements. E. J. CRISP, M.D., D.PHYS. MED. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1960 Pp. v + 158. Price 15s.

Back pain is one of the common ailments that the general practitioner is always meeting.

The author spent 11 years in general practice before entering the field of physical medicine and as a consequence of this his book is clear, concise and not dogmatic, and endeavours to segregate those cases which are suitable for manipulation or other forms of treatment.

The illustrations are excellent and with the description should encourage many general practitioners to undertake this rather neglected form of treatment.

A most useful book for the general practitioner's book shelf.

Active Alerted Posture. W. E. TUCKER, C.V.O., M.B.E., T.D., M.A., M.B., CH.B., F.R.C.S. Edinburgh and London. E. & S Livingstone Ltd. 1960. Pp. viii — 64. Price 10s. 6d.

Human posture is a subject that has in recent years not been given the thought that such a subject deserves either by the general