

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

public or by the medical profession.

This little book, as Sir Arthur Porritt in his foreword states, is a challenge to doctors and other interested people.

General practitioners are amongst the worst offenders who slump at their work and a perusal of this book will possibly benefit their own well being and certainly that of their patients.

The illustrations by Mrs Audrey Besterman are quite excellent and deserve special commendation.

Control of Communicable Disease in Man. An official report of the American Public Health Association. Ninth edition. New York. 1960. Pp. i + 234. Price 7s. 6d.

This book is not a report in the sense with which we are familiar with the term. It is a compendium of information on epidemic diseases and the sanitary measures which may be taken to control them throughout the world. It is a book for the bookshelf, and for reference when occasion arises, rather than light reading by the evening fireside.

This, the ninth edition of a work that has already made its mark and been translated into nine languages, is the result of a five-yearly revision of an earlier volume and contains new material some of which will be of value to workers in this country. In particular the adenovirus diseases—now coming under the scrutiny of the Epidemic Observation Unit—receive appropriate attention.

The section on terms and definitions is worthy of study by practitioner epidemiologists since the phraseology is international and the definitions are already in widespread use. Future revision will no doubt contain accounts and definitions of the as yet undefined virus diseases which the College is investigating and if we learn to think in the accepted terms as we work the assimilation of our results and actions based thereon will be the easier.

A Survey of Staphylococcal Infections of the Skin and Subcutaneous Tissues in General Practice in Australia. A. JOHNSON, PHYLLIS M. ROUNTREE, KATHERINE SMITH, N. F. STANLEY and K. ANDERSON. *The National Health and Medical Research Council*. Special Report Series No. 10. Canberra. 1960.

In 1958, a survey was carried out on the incidence of *Staph. aureus* in lesions of soft tissues in 2,164 patients seen by doctors in general practices in 19 localities situated throughout Australia.