

yet their contents must be arranged so that the specific points sought are found with the least delay.

This synopsis meets that need admirably. Beginning with a 40 page review of the health services and a 20 page review of the history of public health and social medicine (useful in pin-pointing the dates of major legislation), it proceeds through medical statistics to epidemiology and the major causes of death. The sections on infectious disease are not confined to notifiable disease only but includes synoptic accounts of such infections as Bornholm disease, the adenoviral illnesses, and most other communicable diseases met with in practice. The proportion of pages devoted to environmental health is relatively small, and indicates how greatly in the care of the health of the people the emphasis has changed during the last 20 years.

This book is an invaluable reference for the practising doctor. The only criticism is that it is rather expensive.

The Medical Annual. R. BODLEY SCOTT, M.A., D.M., F.R.C.P. and R. MILNES WALKER, M.S., F.R.C.S. 78th Issue. Bristol, John Wright & Sons Ltd., 1960. Pp. 572. Price 42s.

This volume maintains the high standard reached by earlier issues. It is of particular value to the general practitioner as a reference book, giving all the information he may need on most developing subjects, and referring him to appropriate literature for further detail if he needs it. Long may the yearly issues continue.

Mackie and McCartney's Handbook of Bacteriology. Tenth Edition. Edited by ROBERT CRUICKSHANK, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., F.R.S.E. Edinburgh and London. 1960. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. Pp. v + 980. Price 40s.

"Mackie and McCartney" has been a standby for medical students, bacteriologists, and laboratory technicians since its first appearance in 1925, and this tenth edition continues its usefulness to these groups of readers. It does much more, however. Despite the title, the list of contents includes such topics as medical protozoology and virology, and the sub-title, "A Guide to the Laboratory Diagnosis and Control of Infection", is a better description. One might suspect, in view of the compact size of the book, that the subjects must be treated sketchily. This is by no means the case. Everything is handled succinctly and accurately, and sufficient detail is given to make the theoretical background understood, and the