

than the disease, and much of the discussion is comprehensible only by the advanced biochemist or physiologist. The lists of references are truly formidable.

This is not a book for every practitioner's bookshelf, but it is the most comprehensive and up-to-date account of the use of one of his most vital therapeutic agents. The last four chapters, read carefully from a library copy of *The Bulletin*, would themselves form an excellent postgraduate course, while a glance at the rest will increase the reader's respect for his laboratory colleagues.

Aids to Medicine. J. H. BRUCE, M.D., M.R.C.P. 7th Ed. London. Baillière & Cox Ltd. 1960. Pp. v + 39. Price 12s. 6d.

The author, quite rightly, has resisted the temptation to increase the size of this book. The book is not and never can be comprehensive; if it were it would no longer be the quick reference book kept in the surgery drawer or the car "glove compartment".

The same methodical manner of presentation, with which we all become so familiar as students, is maintained throughout the book. This makes the index, which could be improved, practically superfluous as thumbing through a few pages in the appropriate section is nearly as quick as referring to the index.

Like good revision notes it contains bare essentials. Differential diagnosis is often included, most of the everyday laboratory tests are enumerated, and treatment is, on the whole, up to date. Therapies not yet fully established are mentioned as such. All drugs are quoted by their official name, and followed, between brackets, by the often better known proprietary name.

The purpose of this book is an *aide memoire* and, as such, I would give it nearly "full marks".

Pocket Prescriber. ALISTAIR G. CRUICKSHANK, F.R.C.P.E. 17th edition. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd, 1960. Pp. v + 307. Price 6s.

When entering or travelling in foreign countries, where English is not spoken, it is a godsend to find, at the frontier railway or airport bookstalls, these minutely printed, but apparently inexhaustive dictionaries of pocket size, which appear to the non-linguistic traveller as the salvation. All the common situations are soon dealt with, after some quick thumbing, through these compact useful dictionaries.

The *Pocket Prescriber* reminded me of these books, being so