

closely printed that I needed my middle-age glasses, and being so full of information which a practitioner or prescriber not too familiar with his subject might require, it is excellently compact and alphabetically arranged so that quick reference was a *sine qua non*.

The first edition of this book was printed in 1882, yet this seventeenth edition is brought up to date in all respects. The inclusion of such titles as plague only draws attention to its worldwide circulation.

Much benign and fatherly good advice is condensed in these small-print pages, e.g., "Never examine a patient at the bedside with an overcoat on, be sure the hands are warm before touching the patient and they should be washed after the examination is completed", or "Pain in the knee may be due to disease in the hip joint".

The pages on prescribing could well be re-read by the experienced practitioner. Many will also find the appendix with the equivalent of metric and imperial measures very useful as are the tables on proprietaries and their equivalents.

The prescriptions, arranged under various disease headings, are extraordinarily all-embracing even if at times representing an older school of therapeutics. Measles bronchopneumonia may well require a different treatment from that of sulphadimidine, and surely rheumatoid arthritis may require steroid therapy to overcome an acute exacerbation. Equally, one might argue about using methyl prednisolone in asthma when many a simpler steroid would suffice very adequately. Monotheamin would also be ineffective in the dosage given in the majority of cases. However, this minor divergence of opinion does not detract from the admiration for the vast amount of useful information crammed into these 300 pages with space provided for note making at the end.

A useful companion for the recently qualified and those who wish to keep abreast with present day prescribing.

Notes on Infant Feeding. STANLEY GRAHAM, LL.D., M.D., F.R.C.P.(ED.), F.R.F.P.S.(GLAS.), and ROBERT A. SHANKS, M.D., M.R.C.P.(LOND.), F.R.F.P.S.(GLAS.). Fifth edition, Edinburgh and London, E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1960. Pp. 5 + 76. Price 4s. 6d.

This excellent booklet was originally published in 1931 for the use of medical students at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow. It has now again been brought up to date and "it is hoped that it will be found of value to the family doctor".

It will indeed be of value to anyone who feels that his understand-

ing of these matters needs refreshment. It is only with a sound foundation such as this book supplies that a doctor can give the simple, clear but undogmatic instructions that his patients need.

A family doctor might change the emphasis of the book in places, notably to the effect that most feeding difficulties in general practice arise from simple hunger due to mother following too exactly the tables on the tin. Conversely, it is hoped that study of the chapter on diarrhoea and vomiting would lead to more rational and efficient domiciliary treatment of this common condition.

One gem of the past is preserved: "A non-syphilitic wet-nurse should not suckle a syphilitic infant lest she become infected", and the book concludes with a useful appendix of developmental milestones.

BOOKS RECEIVED

You and your Glands. PETER BISHOP, D.M., F.R.C.P. *A Family Doctor Booklet.* (British Medical Association). Pp. 2 + 32. Price 1/-.

Making Friends with your Ulcer. ROBERT KEMP, M.D., M.R.C.P. *A Family Doctor Booklet.* (British Medical Association). Pp. 3 + 33. Price 1/-.

You and your Baby. *Family Doctor Special.* (British Medical Association). Pp. 5 + 96.

Selected Bibliography of Contraception 1940-1960. Edited by CHRISTOPHER TIETZE, M.D. New York. National Committee on Maternal Health, Inc. 1960. Pp. 1 + 76. Price \$1.00.

Abstract

Symptomatic Treatment in the Menopause. MARGARET POLLAK, M.B., B.S., D.OBST., R.C.O.G. *The Practitioner* (February 1960) **184, 231.**

Comparing the results of treating menopausal symptoms with phenobarbitone, $\frac{1}{2}$ grain (30 mg.) thrice daily, or meprobamate, 400 mg. thrice daily, Dr Pollak has studied 16 patients by a double-blind method. She concludes that the incidence of hot flushes was not altered; insomnia was helped by the barbiturate at the expense of increased daytime lethargy; meprobamate induced a feeling of well-being without lethargy, and reduced irritability.