

Book Reviews

Disease in Infancy and Childhood. R. W. B. ELLIS, O.B.E., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. Third edition. Edin. and Lond. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1960. Pp. v + 714. Price 55s.

Health in Childhood. R. W. B. ELLIS, O.B.E., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. London. Penguin Books Ltd. 1960. Pp. vii + 251. Price 5s.

These two books by the same author are reviewed together, though they are obviously directed at very different readers. From the viewpoint of a general practitioner the first book can be said to be a good general text-book on paediatrics, with its orientation naturally biased towards the sort of clinical material which is encountered in hospital practice. This is in no way meant as a criticism of the book but it does mean that the commonly occurring problems with which the general practitioner is primarily concerned, for example the catarrhal child and the disturbed child where the child's illness is merely a reflection of an inadequate family life are relatively scantily dealt with.

The second book, obviously directed at the general reader, is potentially far more interesting to the general practitioner but unfortunately carries over too much of the text-book presentation of the larger book. It demands of the general reader a much above average intelligence and a general knowledge of biology at, at least, "A" level, if the full benefits are to be extracted from the mass of information which it contains. It makes no concessions to popularizing the presentation of the material. It lies somewhere between the ideal book for the general reader and a text-book in paediatrics for the general practitioner. The average parent will find it a mine of technical information about children but not much of a help in dealing with the clinical problems involved in bringing up children.

Textbook of Medicine. Edited by SIR JOHN CONYBEARE, K.B.E., M.C., D.M., F.R.C.P., and W. N. MANN, M.D., F.R.C.P. 13th edition. Edin. and Lond., E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1961. Pp. v + 987. Price 45s.

This edition has been expanded by some 130 pages on its predecessor and contains much new material. Some sections, notably those on hepatic and on renal disease, have been completely rewritten, and new articles on such subjects as adenovirus infections, toxoplasmosis, primary aldosteronism and Christmas disease reflect the pace of medical change. Most important advances in
J. COLL. GEN. PRACT., 1961, 4, 324