

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

therapy have been incorporated, including the use of oral hypoglycaemic agents in diabetes and the new amino-oxidase inhibitors in depression. A summary of the provisions of the Mental Health Act of 1959 is given in the section on psychological medicine.

Minor omissions include lack of any mention of roseola infantum, phenylketonuria and agricultural insecticide poisoning, while room is still found for "hardy annuals" like glanders and von Gierke's disease. Cardiac infarction is discussed at length, but no reference is made to the current controversy about dietary fat and high blood cholesterol in its aetiology.

In the main, the editors have succeeded in their task of compressing the whole field of medicine into a relatively small compass, while retaining a pleasantly readable style. The outlook throughout is essentially practical, and, where necessary, treatment is described in detail. It is a book to be recommended to general practitioners, as providing a convenient, and relatively painless, means of revising and keeping up to date.

The illustrations include a number of useful radiographs and E.C.G.'s. The printing and general layout is attractive and the price extremely reasonable.

Antisera, Toxoids, Vaccines and Tuberculins in Prophylaxis and Treatment. H. J. PARISH, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., D.P.H., and D. A. CANNON, O.B.E., M.B., B.SC., D.T.M. & H. Fifth edition. Edin. and Lond. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1961. Pp. v + 288. Price 37s. 6d.

This text-book example of a text-book has now reached its fifth and best edition. Dr Parish has always packed two pages worth of information into each clearly worded page. Now, as a welcome colleague to help him sit on the trunk and close the lid, he has chosen Dr D. A. Cannon, O.B.E., formerly chief pathologist in the Nigerian Federal Medical Department.

Any doctor in contact with those requiring to be immunized sooner or later comes across a new problem, is asked a question to which he cannot give a quick answer, or meets someone who suggests he's out of date. Where else can he hope to find the answer in a few lines of Queen's English than in "Parish" (now Parish and Cannon)?

The contents range over basic principals and procedures (4 chapters), antisera (5 chapters), active immunization against bacterial diseases (9 chapters), and active immunization against viral and reckettsial diseases (5 chapters), followed by 5 chapters