

**A Study of Home Accidents in Aberdeen.** IAN A. G. MACQUEEN, M.A., M.D., D.P.H., F.R.S.H. Edin. and Lond. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1960. Pp. v + 100. Price 12s. 6d.

Any book or article that adds to our knowledge of accidents is of value. This study of home accidents occurring in the City of Aberdeen during the period of 23 months between 1 September 1955 and 31 August 1957 shows considerable enterprise on the part of the Medical Officer of Health and the staff of the Health and Welfare Department of this city. It provides not only a mass of information but also a method of investigation. In the formidable task of preparation and analysis Dr MacQueen is to be congratulated.

The contention that a home safety campaign which preceded this investigation was successful in reducing the accident rate, particularly among old people, is probably justified since his figure of 1.1 home accident each month per thousand of the population at risk compares favourably with other surveys. His figures for burns are particularly small. The calculation of the domestic accident liability rate for each sex and age group is a useful unit of measurement and provides an excellent method of comparison.

His chapter on accident proneness is of particular interest. Such persons can be likened to carriers of an infectious disease and the problem of accidents may be solved when a method of dealing with such people has been devised.

This study is a valuable contribution to the accident problem and should prove useful to any family doctor interested in this important subject.

**Aids to Psychiatry.** W. S. DAWSON, M.A., D.M., F.R.C.P., F.R.A.C.P., D.P.M. and E. W. ANDERSON, M.D., M.Sc., F.R.C.P., D.P.M. Eighth edition. London. Baillière Tindall & Cox Ltd. 1960. Pp. v + 310. Price 12s. 6d.

There is an enormous amount of psychiatry packed into this very small volume, in which almost every field is covered. This condensation though skilfully executed does not make for easy reading, but it is a useful book for revision purposes. It is impossible to keep pace with modern drug therapy and the references to the latest tranquillizers are scant. Legal aspects have been completely changed by the new Mental Health Act, and an attempt has been made to summarize this in an appendix. It is a pity that there is no bibliography, or guide to further reading. Some of these defects will obviously be remedied in the next edition, and one sympathizes with the authors' difficulties in keeping abreast with the rapid developments of modern psychiatry.