

Aids to Forensic Medicine and Toxicology. SIR W. BENTLEY PURCHASE, C.B.E., M.C., M.B., M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. 13th edition. Edin. and Lond. Bailliere Tindall & Cox Ltd., 1960. Pp. v + 261. Price 12s. 6d.

The author's object is to provide a knowledge of forensic medicine sufficient to enable the student, the houseman, and the average doctor to appreciate the impact of the law and social custom on medical practice. Since the publication of the last edition of this book, forensic medicine has widened considerably in scope and it has been necessary to re-write the entire book. The style is clear, concise, and easy to read and understand.

This book is of little value, from the clinical point of view, to the general practitioner and police surgeon when making detailed physical examinations and reports on such problems as drunk-in-charge, sudden death, and sexual cases.

Every medical practitioner should have ready access to an up-to-date text-book on forensic medicine and toxicology, and this low priced work can be recommended as a useful reference book as far as the legal side of the medical practice is concerned.

From Girlhood to Womanhood. ALBERT SHARMAN, M.D., B.SC., F.R.C.O.G. Edin. and Lond. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1960. Pp. v + 72. Price 6s.

This book is written in response to questions put to a practising gynaecologist by young girls and their mothers. It offers authentic medical statements on subjects which tend to be left to "women's magazines . . . radio talks and television". There are chapters on the female reproductive organs, menstruation, sex, marriage, and child birth, and all are clearly presented. It would be difficult to find a book on sex education completely acceptable to everyone but something less of the statistics of abortions and illegitimacy, and something more on the male sex organs would seem appropriate in a book of this type.

The cover picture seems unfortunate in a book designed to "take the fear away from girls and to try to take embarrassment away from their mothers". Surely girlhood and womanhood have happier aspects than this! But perhaps this mother and daughter have not read the book.