

Stein and A. S. Sklaroff, *Brit. med. J.*, 1955, 172) is the only case in point. It may be that when the College of General Practitioners begins to look into the incidence of duodenal and gastric ulcers, the picture will be found to correspond even less with hospital practice than Doll, Avery Jones and Buckatzsch found in 1957. Preliminary figures emerging from some investigations tend to confirm this.

It was a mild disappointment that the authors do not elucidate or take sides in the controversy over the effect of hormonal therapy on the rate of healing ulcers, and the protection afforded to the development of ulcers. The reported beneficial effect of stilboestrol or its chemically related substances has much interest to the general practitioners, particularly if it should be possible to treat the persistent relapsing ulcer patient thus, if operation is contraindicated for some other medical or social or even geographic reason.

The authors cover the subject of gastroenterology but omit, perhaps wisely, proctological disease and appendicitis, and liver and biliary system disease. Thus results a manageably sized volume with excellent illustrations.

Art and the Scientist. GEOFFREY LAPAGE, M.A., M.SC., M.D., M.INST.BIOL. Bristol. John Wright & Sons Ltd., 1961. Pp. ix + 116. Price 42s.

The illustration of books on medicine and science is a skill to which too little attention is given. Often enough the illustrations seem to have crept into the book inadvertently and sometimes the reader is left with the impression that, being vaguely connected with the subject and having been drawn and painted for some purpose in the past, the author hopefully includes them in his book lest the labour of their creation be lost; and the publisher, unable to assess their value, accepts them as giving a sort of vicarious authority to the text, which they frequently do not give.

Some books of science have gained immensely in value by the standard and choice of their plates. Dr Lapage in this learned and enthralling monograph has collected from some of these to illustrate his book. His purpose is to enquire how much of the true artist there is in the illustrator of books. His arguments and the plates he reproduces are ample evidence that many naturalists, anatomists, and scientists have been artists in their own right.

The author ranges from the earliest book illustrations to those of the present day. The result is a fascinating volume which will interest all who love books or are interested in the history of medicine and science. For a book so copiously illustrated the price is very reasonable.