

Clinical Neurology. SIR RUSSELL BRAIN, BT., D.M., F.R.C.P. London, New York, Toronto. Oxford University Press. 1960. Pp. v + 399. Price 38s.

From cover to cover this book is a delight to read. It is packed with useful information set down clearly with, where necessary, excellent illustrations. It is certainly a book every general practitioner should read and retain for reference.

It is a reviewer's task to criticize, and there are one or two points which might be clarified in the next edition.

While postural nystagmus is described, postural vertigo is not mentioned; nor in cerebro-vascular disease, is the flashing light syndrome of basilar insufficiency. Both of these conditions occur not infrequently in general practice. Myoclonus is said to be most commonly an epileptic phenomenon—surely the violent jerks we all get at times as we drop off to sleep is the commonest cause, and it is physiological. These are very minor points in a text-book for general practitioners which is first class.

Congenital Deformities. GAVIN C. GORDON, M.D., F.R.C.S.E. Edin. and Lond. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1961. Pp. v + 128. Price 37s. 6d.

The title of this book will disappoint anyone looking for a general consideration of the problem of congenital abnormalities. The author, being a consultant orthopaedic surgeon, deals almost entirely with deformities of the skeleton and more than half the book is taken up with a discussion about the aetiology of dislocation of the hip.

It is liberally illustrated with reproductions of radiograms.

A Synopsis of Physiology. (Rendle Short). Edited by C. C. N. VASS, M.SC., PH.D., M.B., CH.B. Fifth Edition. Bristol. John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1961. Pp. i + 348. Price 30s.

This little book compresses a vast amount of physiological data in a relatively small space, unfortunately losing some clarity in the process. The style is extremely condensed and as the author points out in his preface, it is not intended to replace a standard text-book. It's main use would appear to be as a quick means of revision for students and for those doctors whose acquaintance with physiology (and organic chemistry) is relatively recent.