

Book Reviews

A Guide to Cardiology. J. C. LEONARD, M.D., M.R.C.P. and E. G. GALEA, M.B., M.R.C.P., M.R.A.C.P. Edin. and Lond. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1961. Pp. xii + 267. Price 27s. 6d.

The authors state that this book was written primarily for the undergraduate student, house physician, and general practitioner. Within that limitation it is quite excellent. It contains far more than its size would suggest and this has been achieved by lucid style and economy of words. The material is presented somewhat dogmatically, without discussion, and tends to be a little staccato, though that is no disadvantage in a book of this sort. It is well balanced, with emphasis on the commoner conditions and stress on bedside diagnosis which is now so important for the general practitioner; special investigations are given shorter descriptions though there is enough to assist in the interpretation of hospital reports.

It is difficult to decide whether any kind of working knowledge can be gained from the condensation of electrocardiography into 17 pages, and it is a little disappointing to see that almost all the examples of electrocardiograms are made with old machines and have broad "noisy" base lines; the only modern one is the illustration of paroxysmal nodal tachycardia and the difference is striking.

The sections on treatment are very good and contain much wisdom. It is impossible to keep pace with the flow of new hypotensive agents and it is no criticism of the book to say that much of the therapeutics of hypertension is already dated.

The work of the publishers is also good. The book is a convenient size, well produced and reasonably priced; the reproductions of x rays are unusually clear.

The advances in medical and surgical treatment of cardiovascular diseases have placed new emphasis on the importance of bedside diagnosis and have increased the responsibilities of the general practitioner. For this reason it is an important book.

Facing Retirement. A COUNTRY DOCTOR, M.A., M.D., with Foreword by J. W. ROBERTSON SCOTT, C.H.M.A. Lond. George Allen & Unwin Ltd. 1960. Pp. 9 + 127. Price 12s. 6d.

It came on me suddenly whilst travelling on an Inner Circle Tube train. She was like any other London office girl, pale and tired, but young and nicely dressed. I hardly noticed her until she half rose to offer me her seat. That was several years ago now, but ever