

since there has been a little nagging thought that some day I shall have to sit back and let others stand in my place. Consequently, when asked to review this book it provoked further qualms. Was this not another horrible hint? "Oh! yes, he'll do it. Just the kind of book he will like". Prejudiced I turned the pages; strangely enough I did like it.

Based on lectures delivered to members of Women's Institutes, it is primarily directed to the lay reader. The chapters are short; the print clear and large enough for those with failing eyesight to read with ease; the style is lucid. Much of the advice given in the 20 chapters is not to be found collected inside the covers of any other book of a comparable size. The dust cover states it to be "an ideal gift for anyone in the 50's or 60's" and this assuredly it is. Though there may be occasions when to give such a present would show a lack of tact, this is a book which should be read before retirement. The difficulty in adjusting to a new life on the brink of old age, at a time of life when it is becoming increasingly difficult to absorb new habits and ideas, is well known. Here is preventive medicine of the best sort. I am glad that the author has chosen to remain anonymous, as "a country doctor" his wisdom spreads its mantle over all his colleagues.

A Short Manual of Venereal Diseases and Treponematosi. R. C. L. BATCHELOR, M.A., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., F.R.C.S.E., F.R.C.P.E. and MARJORIE MURRELL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.E. 2nd Edition. Edin. and Lond. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1961. Pp. i + 316. Price 25s.

A most appropriate publication which will be welcomed by all general practitioners. The recent editorials in most medical journals have highlighted this recurring and increasing problem of the larger venereal disease group patients. Those of us who may have forgotten about this during the past 15 years, when we did not see any or very few exceptional cases, and those of us who have entered practice since the war, will value this book from this now famous team at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.

The illustrations, particularly coloured plates of skin lesions are quite strikingly helpful. The discussion of the laboratory tests and their evaluation is sanely balanced and informative to the family doctor who cannot enter into the finesse of whether to ask for a Kahn or Wasserman. The chapter on the use of penicillin has wise advice: . . . "When in doubt, don't give penicillin. . ." but otherwise it may disappoint family doctors who must be handling

penicillin in millions of units. Yet it is salutary to have all the risks and the antidotes re-assembled here. The detailed descriptions of the venereologists technique in treatment and diagnosis, giving particularly careful consideration to the simple nursing and handling problems is indeed valuable to the practitioner who has not seen many such cases in the past years. Ethical and social considerations are discussed and might well give even the widely experienced practitioner food for thought.

This is altogether a splendid and usefully concise book comprising all the information a family doctor ought to know, not only in the United Kingdom but with special mention of the treponematoses. This is a real advance in books which concisely put across a speciality of general interest, even if unfortunately increasing importance.

Urology in General Practice. IAN PROCTOR, M.B., CH.B., B.SC., F.R.C.S. Auckland Hospital, Auckland, New Zealand. London. Butterworth & Co. 1960. Pp. xi + 282. Price 45s.

This is a book that is eminently suitable for the young general practitioner, to enlarge the basic knowledge that he absorbed as an undergraduate, and for the older practitioner to repair the ravages of time.

There is an excellent introduction which alone makes this book worth reading and the case descriptions in the remaining chapters are illustrative of the difficulties encountered when dealing with genito-urinary problems, which are so often, as the author states in the preface, not in the text-books.

A readable, useful book enhanced by the Shakespearian quotations at the head of each chapter.

Pathology of the Nervous System. J. HENRY BIGGART, C.B.E., M.D., D.SC., F.R.C.P. Third Edition. Edin. and Lond. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1961. Pp. v + 368. Price 40s.

This is the third edition of an old classic from the Scottish stable. As an introduction to the pathology of the central nervous system it is ideal for medical students and those preparing for the D.P.M. As a readable refresher course for the family doctor it is of even greater value, and provides a useful background to his neurological cases. No attempt has been made to give an extensive bibliography but the references are well chosen. The student of neurology must have a sigh of relief when he studies the lucid and precise text, accompanied by the delightfully clear photographs, of which 22 are coloured plates. It is interesting to see that Mr T. Dodds was