

Textbook of Medical Treatment. By various authors. Edited by SIR DERRICK DUNLOP, B.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., SIR STANLEY DAVIDSON, B.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., and S. ALSTEAD, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.F.P.S. Eighth edition. Edin. and Lond. E. and S. Livingstone Ltd. 1961. Pp. v + 983. Price 60s.

Again after three short years this standard text-book is before us. The eighth edition continues the well-known and much approved standard of its predecessors. The book itself is enlarged by sixty pages, this, though we may regret it, is inevitable. New contributors have taken the place of old. New chapters have been added on analgesics and the relief of pain, and on diseases of the eyes. As is inevitable there are a few omissions which we hope will be rectified in the next edition. Particularly, we regret that the only mention of temporal arteritis comes in the new chapter on eye diseases. Such an important and relatively common condition in the elderly warrants more mention. The section on herpes zoster still includes the use of injections of pituitrin to lessen pain but fails to mention cyanocobalamine, and for the local treatment there is no mention of either the time honoured method of painting the rash with collodion or the newer method of sealing it with plastic aerosols such as nobecutane. But these omissions are small compared with the general worth of the advice given. In our opinion this is an essential book for the desk of every practitioner.

THE AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

Bligh House, a colonial mansion of historical and architectural interest at 43 Lower Fort Street, Sydney, has become the headquarters of the Australian College of General Practitioners. It was built about 1830, and contains fifteen rooms with offices. There is a beautiful verandah with cedar columns arranged in pairs, and all the internal woodwork is also of cedar. A ballroom, suitable for receptions, and another large room suitable for a board room, are included. Other rooms will be used for administrative offices, and some of the bedrooms are retained as such for the use of visiting Australians or overseas general practitioners.

The building was found through contact with Mr O. H. Wyndham, formerly president of the National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.). He suggested a search of The Rocks area of Sydney which is scheduled for development as a high density residential area. His trust were anxious that some of the historic old houses in that area should be preserved. Members of the Australian College are now being asked to send generous donations so that Bligh House can be restored without delay.