

Book Reviews

The Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy. Tenth Edition.
New York. Merck Sharp & Dohme Research Laboratories.
1961. Pp. vii + 1907. Price 60s.

Many practitioners may not be familiar with the *Merck Manual*. For its size it is probably the most comprehensive manual of its kind. Its twenty one main sections, all of which have been revised and brought up to date since the last edition, bring together a fund of information on nearly all medical disorders. As a quick and ready reference book nothing could be better.

For the British practitioner the comprehensive section on prescriptions may not be so useful as the other sections. The section on adrenocortical and related therapy is certainly valuable though some might take exception to the conditions for the treatment of which it is mentioned as being useful. In particular psoriasis, tinea curis and pedis are unlikely to benefit. This however is a small point. For £3 0s. 0d. this book is extremely good value.

Diseases of the Nose, Throat and Ear (Logan Turner). 6th edition.
Editors JOHN P. STEWART, M.D., F.R.C.S. and R. B. LUMSDEN,
T.D., M.B., F.R.C.S. Bristol. John Wright and Sons Ltd. 1961.
Pp. 508. Price 52s. 6d.

This book is the work of seven surgeons and is well edited to produce a coherent whole, with very little evidence of contradictory views. It is an excellent reference book for general practitioners with a special interest in these diseases. Naturally, it has a surgical bias, which is seen in the meticulous descriptions of surgical operations which often compare unfavourably with the more casual approach to medical treatment, wherein the dose of drug or length of treatment are sometimes omitted.

The anatomy and physiology of the nose, throat and ear are clearly described and easily understood, except in the section on the inner ear, where a few sentences were not readily grasped by this reviewer. For example, under "Motion Sickness" one sentence reads—"linear acceleration is the only force acting on a two-point suspension swing which exceeds the threshold of labyrinthine stimulation". Perhaps that is for the registrar to whom this book will also be of considerable value.

For each disease, symptoms, prognosis, differential diagnosis, and