

many and diverse problems that may beset him when dealing with expectant mothers and their newly born children. This book certainly covers the problems, and if read with care and certain reservations is a most valuable addition to that select part of the medical bookshelf kept for quick ready reference.

Symptoms and Signs in Clinical Medicine. E. NOBLE CHAMBERLAIN, M.D., M.SC., F.R.C.P. Seventh edition. Bristol, J. Wright & Sons Ltd., 1961. Pp. x + 569. Price 45s.

The new edition of this well-known text-book maintains a high standard and is lavishly illustrated. Unlike therapeutics, symptoms and signs have shown little tendency to change since the days of the first edition (1936). Much of the text is substantially unchanged from that of earlier editions, while in the illustrations, one can recognize many old, if discarded, friends. The main advance in this edition is backwards!—an excellent introductory chapter on “The Foundations of our Art” which gives a rapid survey of medical history from Hippocrates to Koch. There have, in addition, been major alterations in the chapters on radiology and clinical pathology.

There is little to fault in the text. Only a fleeting and rather disparaging reference is made to the value of auscultation in examining the abdomen. No mention is made of rib resection in respiratory disease in children. In marked contrast to the rest of the book, there is a relative dearth of illustrations, which would be most helpful, in the chapter on “Medical operations and investigations”.

Although basically a text-book for students this work could be read, and re-read with considerable profit by general practitioners. Those, however, who possess earlier editions will scarcely find the expense of repurchase justifiable.

The Medical Annual. A Year-book of Treatment and Practitioners' Index. Bristol, John Wright & Sons Ltd., 1961. Pp. i + 610. Price 42s.

The seventy-ninth issue of the *Medical Annual* is in all respects worthy of its predecessors. The book covers the same wide range of subjects that has always made it so handy a reference book for all working doctors. The new arrangement of subjects under headings of the specialties which was introduced last year makes it easy for those who wish to find out “what's new” in any subject. The special articles again pick out those subjects in which major advances are being made: Human chromosome abnormalities by W. M. Court Brown, the management of paraplegia by L. Guttmann,

microsurgery by J. Angell James and psychotropic drugs by Linford Rees are all explained in a way that those unversed in these subjects can easily understand.

Of the many medical annuals and year-books on the market *The Medical Annual* remains one of the best and most comprehensive.

Human Genetics. *British Medical Bulletin*, vol. 17, No. 3: The British Council, London, 1961. Pp. xiv + 264. Price 20s.

This excellent symposium, with an introduction by Sir Robert Platt, will be of interest only to those family doctors who want detailed or specialized information about particular aspects of this growing branch of medical knowledge. Chapters on mongolism, abnormal sexual development in man and the inheritance of congenital pyloric stenosis may have the widest appeal but each of the 15 chapters which make up the symposium is written by an acknowledged authority on his subject. Other subjects dealt with include, Turner's syndrome, Galactosaemia, Aminoaciduria, Pharmacogenetics, and the genetics of finger print patterns. A review is included of nine other important publications on human genetics or related subjects.

Handbook of Medical Laboratory Formulae. R. E. SILVERTON, A.I.M.L.T., F.R.M.S. and M. J. ANDERSON, F.I.M.L.T. London. Butterworths. 1961. Pp. v + 676. Price 90s.

This is a work for the laboratory technician and the assistant in bacteriological and pathological departments. It contains concise information on the formulae and methods of preparing solutions for the various techniques in use. As a reference work it serves a much needed purpose in that it brings this information together under one cover but it is hardly likely that the general practitioner would need to refer to it. The book is well produced.

The Ship Would Not Travel Due West. DAVID LEWIS, London, Temple Press Books. 1961. Pp. xii + 154. Price 21s.

Readers of the *Journal* will remember an account by Dr David Lewis of his reactions to sailing alone. In 1960 Dr Lewis took part in a solo race across the Atlantic. He arrived third in spite of the fact that his mast broke soon after leaving Plymouth and he had to return there for repairs. The book under review is an account of that passage and of his return home via the Shetlands. Those who sail the open seas and those who slip in and out of the little estuaries around our coasts will find this account fascinating. The endurance