

that "until the patient's need for communication is met the potentially good other aspects of his hospital care will not be fully effective". "The patient needs not only sustained reassurance about his physical condition but, perhaps more important, sustained interest in him as a person".

This main finding confirms something which seems to be more obvious to general practitioners than it is to hospital medical and nursing staffs. It clashes with the contemporary medical trends of dividing responsibility and specializing; it also clashes with the contemporary nursing trend to assign nurses to jobs rather than to patients and to change them quickly from job to job.

It is sometimes said that a good way with sick people cannot be taught. In this book sick people say what they want; both doctors and nurses can learn from it how to be more sensitive to their needs.

Simpler words could, in some places, have made this good book more readable.

Sight. ROY O. SCHOLTZ, M.D. London. Hodder & Stoughton. 1962. Pp. xix + 192. Price 16s.

Books written for laymen by experts tend either, to write down to the reader, or else use technical language with more detail than the untutored reader can understand. Dr Scholtz has succeeded admirably in most of the chapters in steering a middle course between these extremes, and such subjects as short-sightedness and eye examinations are dealt with simply and concisely. On the other hand the chapter on glaucoma seems rather too technical for the layman.

The preface to the British edition states that as little as possible of the original text has been changed, and this is evident in such phrases as "your ophthalmologist should be consulted" and, that when consulted, "he will discuss the differential diagnosis of your condition in detail".

Allergy as a cause of swelling of the eyelids is not mentioned, and for laymen the reassurance that this is a harmless and common phenomenon would be welcomed. The danger of herpetic eruptions on the face as a source of herpes ophthalmica in contacts should also have been mentioned and stressed.

This book may be recommended to laymen who are interested in a particular aspect of ophthalmology as a means of understanding their own or a relative's problems, but nurses and other health workers would also benefit from reading it as a whole.