

and General Medicine, and on Sexual Anomalies. Both are welcome additions. While the former chapter is an advance, still more attention could be drawn to the functions of the general practitioner in this field. After all he still has to care for most of the psychiatric casualties at some stage of their illness, and the modern trends in mental health are encouraging him to do even more. The final chapter on Psychiatry and the Law gives a clear summary of the new Mental Health Act, with explanations of how it works on both sides of the Border. It is indeed difficult for writers of psychiatric text-books to keep abreast of all the latest advances, but this volume has gone far to cover the ground. The authors have given adequate coverage on modern drug therapy without spending too much space on a subject which may well be out of date before the ink is dry. It is the reviewer's task to criticize, and inevitably there are some gaps in the psychiatric field which are not described in sufficient detail. For example the mild type of endogenous depression which is so much more common than the severe grades receives scant attention, and surely a chapter on psychiatry of the aged should be prepared, as mental illness is most prevalent in senility. These are, however, minor defects in a fine, up-to-date edition, which should find a place on the shelves of every group practice.

Lectures on the Methodology of Clinical Research. MAX HAMILTON, M.D., D.P.M. Edin. & Lond., E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1961. Pp. v + 139. Price 21s.

Statistics for Medical Students. D. E. GRAY, B.A., M.Sc., Ph.D., Hong Kong University Press. Oxford University Press, Lond., 1961. Pp. i + 50. Price 9s.

Whether we like it or not statistics has become an important instrument of medical research. Not only physiological and pharmacological research workers but also clinicians now call the statistician to their aid; indeed, in these days it is hardly safe to publish a paper unless a professional statistician has proved its findings to be statistically valid.

In the welter of figures and signs which are produced, it is sometimes forgotten that a clinical impression based as it is on whether the patient is getting better or worse, is still the vital factor in assessing the effect of treatment of our patients. Voltaire jibed that one of his characters recovered "in spite of the physicians": had he written today he doubtless would have said that he got better despite the statisticians.

Nevertheless, whatever we may think of statistics we must perforce

know what they mean. Dr Max Hamilton in a series of lectures has most ably set out to teach the unmathematical the meaning of statistics. A reading of his book will bring to the ordinary practitioner a better insight into the meanings of the scientific papers that he reads in the journals. Those who are planning research projects will find much useful information in his pages and the wisdom of consulting a statistician early in their preparatory work will become even more apparent to them than it was before.

Dr Gray's little book is a class-book. In a manner reminiscent of the French conversation school-books he chooses as his examples the most unexpected things, and almost before we know where we are, Alice-like, we are charmed into considering the "distribution of left ear-length in white rabbits". In spite of this there is good, simple sense in this pamphlet and, armed with it and the tables of squares and square roots and Fishers tables that it contains, it will be possible for most of us to work out the simple statistical problems we meet in the course of our work.

The Casualty Officer's Handbook. MAURICE ELLIS, M.A., F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.T.M. & H. London, Butterworths, 1962. Pp. v + 243. Price 42s.

This splendid handbook is designed for its purpose by a consultant surgeon who has great experience of casualty work. He evidently is equally experienced in teaching his skills to junior casualty officers. All the common injuries seen in a casualty department are dealt with in systematic order, and the instruction given is made comprehensible by a simple exposition of principles in every instance.

One wonders what might be the rationale of heparin compresses on the intact skin over a soft tissue injury, but it is difficult to find much to criticize. Every general practitioner who has to deal with minor casualties (and who does not?) should get this book. He will find it an invaluable guide to the modern practices used in dealing with such injuries. Doctors who give cover in general-practitioner hospitals will find the book indispensable.

Outline of Orthopaedics. Fourth Edition. JOHN CRAWFORD ADAMS, M.D., F.R.C.S. Edin. and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1961. Pp. v + 448. Price 35s.

This book which has now reached its fourth edition, was first published in 1956 and this surely shows that it has supplied a long felt want for a small compact book on orthopaedics. Though it is intended primarily for medical students, practitioners will find it