

and Research on Interferon. These are excellent presentations of the subjects.

A feature of the *Medical Annual* has always been the wealth of illustration. These are again well chosen, and beautifully reproduced.

The publishers wish to draw attention to an important omission from the dosage table on page 246 which deals with the treatment of meningococcal meningitis. The daily dosage of sulphadimidine should not exceed 9 G. daily nor that of sulphadiazine $7\frac{1}{2}$ G. daily.

Anatomical Eponyms. JESSIE DOBSON, B.A., M.SC. Second edition Edin. and Lond., E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1962. Pp. i + 235. Price 30s.

Most of us will have been fascinated and at the same time confused by the eponyms used in the description of various organs of the body and have wondered for instance, who was Henle of the loop, Langerhans of the islets and Passavant of the bar? Again in our readings of the journals, too often are we mystified by unfamiliar names in the descriptions used and unable because of our ignorance fully to understand their meaning. Here in this book nearly all our problems will be solved. We were disappointed however in not finding Heubner whose branch of the anterior cerebral artery has recently been given renewed importance by the neurologist. Miss Dobson sets out her eponyms under the owner of the name they bear giving his dates of birth and death and where he worked. She then lists the eponyms attributed to him describing them and giving, as often as not, a reference to the original paper in which they appeared.

Besides being of enormous use to those who read widely in medical writings of the last 200 years it forms a delightful book for browsing. The pity of it that so many of these euphonious eponyms are passing out of common use and that we may no longer roll off our tongues such ringing phrases as—the fibres of Mummery, Naboth's ovules, Perlia's nucleus, Howship's lacunae, Giralde's organ, Gley's glands, Gieke's respiratory bundle, the cords of Willis, Wilde's cone of light, and the zonule of Zinn.

The Middle Years. ALBERT SHARMAN, M.D. Edin. and Lond., E. & S. Livingstone, Ltd. 1962. Pp. v + 71. Price 6s. 6d.

A medical author who sets out to inform and to reassure non-medically trained readers is bound to run into difficulties, the more so when the subject involves the end of fertility and the beginning

of conscious involution in the women who will read this book. Dr Sharman contests bravely. Anatomy and physiology present no problems, though the account seems unduly detailed. The 15 pages on the Normal Menopause are clearly written, but are by no means reassuring for an anxious reader, I would guess. The following chapter on Disturbances around the Menopause is a useful summary from a fair and objective standpoint, but is unlikely to allay the fears that haunt some women at middle age. The six pages on treatment are admirable, with emphasis on enjoyable activities, well expressed without being unsympathetic or hearty.

How many family doctors would agree with the table on page 62, where the average age for the last period is estimated to be 43, with extremes between 37 and 49? It is interesting that no reference is made to the routine temperature chart as evidence of ovulation. It is surely no less accurate than the advice for the personal use of litmus paper on the cervix uteri for the same purpose.

Common Nervous Disorders, F. R. C. CASSON, M.B., B.SC., D.P.M.
Lond. W. and G. Foyle, Ltd., 1961. Pp. 88. Price 4s.

This is one of the series of Foyle's Health Handbooks designed to give the intelligent layman an outline of the fundamentals of the subject as it is currently understood.

To make a complicated subject seem straightforward needs deep understanding, and the author is to be congratulated on the result. Although the chapter headings are in terms of neurotic disease entities, the emphasis is entirely on the patterns of reaction which we all show.

With psychogenic illness at the root of so much of the general practitioner's work, this book will surely be a means of saving much tedious time spent in explaining ideas and terminology. At the same time the help it gives to the layman is only intellectual and likely to be disappointing if it is expected to do more than merely facilitate the real therapeutic weapon—the personal relationship between the doctor and his patient.

Here then is a book that we can recommend without reserve, and without relieving ourselves of any responsibility for helping our patient.
