

practice, who may be called on to diagnose an abdominal emergency, for a fund of commonsense guidance and a life-time of service. We need hardly add that it is written in a clear and lambent style which adds appreciably to the reader's pleasure.

Antisera, Toxoids, Vaccines and Tuberculines in Prophylaxis and Treatment. Sixth edition. H. J. PARISH, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., D.P.H., and D. A. CANNON, *O.B.E.*, M.B., B.SC., F.R.C.P.S.E., D.T.M. & H. Edin. and Lond. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1962. Pp. v+314. Price 40s.

The unusual quality of this sixth edition of the standard short work on immunization is that it has been made interesting. Whether the subject is yellow fever vaccination or the technique of Schick testing the reader takes up one practical point after another without becoming bored.

The principles of serology are discussed first, accounts are given of antisera of different kinds and of their use in bacterial and viral disease. The detail is ample for the student and for the enquirer who wishes to look up a particular process with which he may be unfamiliar. The practitioner in this country can be excused ignorance of the management of a suspected rabies contact in a returning holidaymaker. Here he will find the help he needs.

At the end of the book comes a valuable section on the planning of courses of immunization against different conditions. This is the concern of every general practitioner, as is the need to know who has been immunized, with what, against which disease. Personal record cards and identity discs bearing details of completed procedures are both fully discussed.

The book is a reminder that we should from time to time review our practice in regard to immunizing procedures. When we do so we will find the task has been made easy for us by Parish and Cannon.

Pocket Book of Proprietary Drugs. Second edition. A. G. CRUIKSHANK, F.R.C.P., and CORNELIUS STEWART, L.R.C.P. & S.E., M.P.S.Y. Edin. and Lond. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1962. Pp. v+300. Price 15s.

This is a handy, scientific, and well produced guide to the use of current proprietary drugs. In spite of containing details of over 2,000 preparations the details are not skimmed, and it is truly of pocket size. It does exactly what it claims to do, i.e. give for each preparation the details provided by each manufacturer succinctly, clearly, and without comment. The compilers state "As the claims made by some firms for their specialities have not been substantiated, we have not provided a therapeutic index". This seems a pity as it would have made the book a better work of reference and not really committed the authors to agreeing with claims made.

Inevitably, it invites comparison with the widely distributed *MIMS*