

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*

(*Monthly Index of Medical Specialities*), over which it scores heavily except that it does not give prices or a therapeutic classification. It gives the size of packs and the exact composition of each preparation, with rare exceptions, so that, for example, the reviewer was surprised to find that daprisal was exactly equivalent to drinamyl plus aspirin and phenacetin. In view of the dangers to which thalidomide has drawn attention it is most valuable to find here all known contra-indications and side effects noted in full. Use with other drugs is also mentioned, e.g. under zarentin the use with other anti-epileptics. Under stelazine there are 42 lines of information compared with 11 in *MIMS*, though often the discrepancy is not so great. Digitaline (Nativelle) gets 62 lines of concentrated instruction while lanoxin (digoxin) being a standard drug gets only 10 lines. Novocaine gets 27 lines while procaine, not being a proprietary, is not mentioned.

These examples are not given to suggest any imbalance in treatment but as indications that where help is needed over any proprietary drug it will be found; in fact practically everything of therapeutic value in a firm's literature is given here, tabulated and accessible. If a doctor uses it he will understand much better what he is giving, the best way to prescribe it, and what contraindications and side effects to look out for. It is really a most useful companion to the *B.N.F.* which mentions many proprietary drugs but cannot go into all the details that this Pocket Book does so successfully. As the flood of new preparations is likely to slow down for a time it will not quickly go out of date, but that is no reason for practitioners not getting it at once.

Gynaecologic Cancer. Third edition. JAMES A. CORSCADEN, Ph.D., M.D.
Lond. Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1962. Pp. xi + 574. Price 96s.

This is the third edition of Dr Corscaden's book, the first having been published in 1951. This third edition has been completely revised, so as to include the advances made since the book was first published. The greatest of these, the author considers, has been in the field of explorative cytology, and the Papanicolaon technique is dealt with in some detail in the chapter on cancer of the cervix.

The first two chapters consider cancer of the female genital tract in general, and serve as an introduction to the later ones. These deal with cancer in all regions of the female reproductive organs and details of pathology, symptomatology, diagnosis, and treatment are given. Each region is dealt with in a separate chapter and at the end of each an extensive bibliography is given. This in fact lists only the major sources consulted by the author, the total literature being so vast. The concluding chapters are again general, dealing with the menopause, management of the cancer patient, and the mode of cancer. Included in the chapter on management of the cancer patient is a section on "drug therapy" in gynaecologic cancer. This deals with anticancer agents, and has been