

A Human Approach to General Practice. C. P. ELLIOTT-BINNS, M.B., B.CH., D.C.H., D.OBST.R.C.O.G. Edin and Lond. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963. P. v + 76. Price 7s. 6d.

After seven years in general practice Dr Elliott-Binns has collected together his experiences and produced a most readable and wise appraisal of the pleasures and disappointments of practice. His attitude towards the National Health Service and the present state of general practice is refreshing after so much has been written of its hardships and frustrations. In his own words:

It seems extraordinary that some people say that general practice is "not what it was" or is "on its way out". Admittedly there are many problems, some of them due to the sudden and arbitrary appearance of the National Health Service. However, the important fact is that the present-day general practitioner with the aid of his clinical sense and the contents of his medical bag, can cure most diseases single-handed, effectively, and economically. Also he is in a better position than anyone, even a psychiatrist, for dealing with minor functional complaints and domestic problems. If therefore the general practitioner cannot stand up to the challenge of being able to do his job properly, the fault lies in himself. To solve the present difficulties what is most needed is more co-operation between the practitioners themselves, and the realization that practice has evolved and is still evolving, and that useless or harmful ideas should be discarded.

This short inexpensive book is worth reading by any general practitioner—the new entrant to general practice, and indeed the houseman—who is thinking of becoming a general practitioner will find in it much to stimulate his thought.

Methods of Psychiatric Research. Edited by P. SAINSBURY, B.A., M.D., D.P.H., and N. KREITMAN, M.D., D.P.H. Lond., N.Y., Toronto. Oxford University Press. 1963. Pp. vii + 175; price 35s.

In November 1962 the Research Committee of the Council of the College of General Practitioners issued a 50 page booklet entitled *A Guide to Research in General Practice*. The volume under review is larger, more comprehensive, more sophisticated, and many of the chapters apply strictly to psychiatric work, but it is interesting to note that this book is essentially similar, and working on the same lines as the College publication. There are some 14 chapters each by different authors covering many practical aspects of the problem from how to set about choosing a subject for research, down to the final phase of how to write up the findings as a scientific paper. All the chapters are eminently readable, some being more technical than others, but they are full of useful tips and advice. "When copying out references to make a bibliography, it is a good idea to write them out on cards, to facilitate rearrangement later." In the list of major libraries no mention is made of that of the B.M.A. which gives excellent service. One function of the reviewer is to point out omissions. He suggests that a doctor with a special interest should from the very start attempt to collect every paper and reprint on his own subject as a private collection, leaving the library to fill in any