

the other hand, in the common neuroses, the bulk of whose management falls to the lot of the family doctor, psychotherapy is the best tool we have.

Psychiatry is concerned with largely undiscovered country, into which explorations are still being made; doubtless new aspects will be disclosed in years to come. The complete map will be soonest made when all explorers, rather than discredit the methods and discoveries of each other, unite to increase the sum of knowledge.

Aspects of Psychiatric Research. Edited by D. RICHTER, J. M. TANNER, LORD TAYLOR, and O. L. ZANGWILL. Lond., N.Y., and Toronto. Oxford University Press, 1962. Pp. v + 445. Price 63s.

The research committee of the Mental Health Research Fund and the editors of this comprehensive volume are to be congratulated on the uniformly high standard of the book. It is by no means easy to produce a series of chapters by different authors in which the balance is preserved, and repetition avoided, but this has been achieved. The wide field covered in the comparatively short space of 439 pages is most creditable. Sir Geoffrey Vickers opens the series by a challenging chapter on the problem of mental illness in our British culture. Striking facts are produced. Mental illness costs the country about a quarter of the N.H.S. income: 44 per cent of the hospital beds are in mental institutions; schizophrenia is responsible for more bed-years of hopeless illness than any other disease. It is not possible to summarize each of the twenty chapters, but the taste is catholic. The reviewer who has had no psycho-analytic training, was captivated by Dr John Bowlby's thesis on childhood bereavement and its relationship to psychiatric illness, carefully worked out step by step. Psycho-analytic arguments on schizophrenia in one chapter are countered by observations on biochemical factors of the disease as shown in the plasma and serum of schizophrenic patients. One is gently introduced to the complex subject of neuropharmacology, and such technical chapters as this and one on chromosome abnormalities are eminently readable. Besides the chapters already mentioned there are others on the evolution and meaning of the Mental Health Act; epidemiology, crime, industry, and genetics, to mention only a few. The book is well printed with an excellent list of references at the end of each contribution. The reader feels that he is being brought up to date in many divergent fields of psychiatry, all for the cost of three guineas. The book is recommended to all who are interested in social medicine, psychiatry, and psychiatric research.

A Short Textbook of Medicine. First edition. J. C. HOUSTON, M.D., F.R.C.P., C. L. JOINER, M.D., M.R.C.P., J. R. TROUNCE, M.D., M.R.C.P. The English Universities Press Ltd. 1962. Pp. x + 564. Price 25s. paper bound. 35s. board bound.

This book strikes a very happy medium between the text-book and the synopsis and has been written mainly for medical students. The editor's foreword claims, "It is a concise account of the subject with more than

enough material to satisfy the examiners for the final medical degree". Indeed, this claim is fully justified.

The layout of the book is clear to follow and the text is easily readable. The authors' use of headings and sub-headings adds to the clarity of each section. There are chapters on Medical Aspects of Radiation, Psychiatry, and Abnormal Reactions to Drugs, which are lucid and informative.

This book is up to date and is produced in an inexpensive form so that it may be replaced by successive editions. General practitioners will find this book ideal, therefore, as a source of current medical knowledge and treatment.

Diseases of the Respiratory System. NEVILLE C. OSWALD, T.D., M.D., F.R.C.P. and JOHN FRY, M.D., F.R.C.S. Oxford. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1962. Pp. i + 229. Price 32s. 6d.

This book is such an obvious and logical approach to the teaching of students that it will surely set a fashion. We shall see other parts of the medical field equally described in such a concise and admirable form both by a teacher of medical students, in this case from Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and an experienced general practitioner from Beckenham, Kent. The team thus described is a winner in producing the commonsense approach to the medical problems of the respiratory system. There is no overloading with small-print disease, but a straight discussion of the day-to-day problems as met with by a family physician, with every indication of the possible complications.

The chapter on anatomy is suitably combined with radiology. The chapter on respiratory physiology has an excellent introduction to the mystifying expressions, "forced expiratory volume" and "forced vital capacity" and their increasing use in and out of hospital.

It is refreshing, and makes this book more useful, to have the whole of the respiratory system discussed. Thus the everyday problems of sore throat, tonsillitis, catarrh, are outlined in a lively and practical way. Yet, at times, one wonders how the unorthodox approach could repeat some of the orthodox statements, i.e. what real evidence is there for the statement on "familial tendencies" on a number of occasions. Many useful hints can be picked up from this slim but packed volume, such as the set of diagrams for record keeping abbreviations; the discussion on adenoidectomy; the clear chapter on chronic bronchitis and emphysema, leading up to the chapter on cardiovascular and pulmonary disease. No doubt the economy in pages and style which makes this book so useful and attractive, lead to some omissions which might find correction in a later edition: The treatment of fungus infection and thrush; the children's dosage of drugs mentioned; the so often most persistent sign of carcinoma of bronchus, the scapular region pain, and the adamant need to bronchoscope an unexplained haemoptasis patient in the critical age group.

The clarity of the final chapter is a joy, particularly in the absence of the fashionable antihistamines as cough medicines. The useful chapter on thoracic injuries is a reminder of the slaughter on modern roads.

In short, though of limited scope, a very comprehensive book with a new approach.