

Neurological Examination in Clinical Practice. EDREIC R. BICKERSTAFF, M.D., M.R.C.P. Oxford. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1963. Pp. v + 357. 50s.

This book is of moderate size, generously illustrated and lucidly written. Many general practitioners will wish to read it, and few will fail to be kindled at the way in which Dr Bickerstaff has satisfied a wide felt need for such a work on the broader aspects of diagnosis in neurological illness. The work is erudite but human in its approach to the patient, and wise in the simplicity of advice given to the doctor.

Long pants, guaranteed to defeat adequate examination of the lower limbs in men, should be removed, for if rolled up above the knee, they serve merely as an efficient tourniquet. In women, brassières and corsets will often conceal a primary carcinoma of the breast, a distended bladder, or an ill-conceived pregnancy, any of which may have a profound bearing on the diagnosis.

The book is well planned and is notable for ease of reference. Sections on The Unconscious Patient, and on the neurological aspects of disease in childhood, are among many that will be of value to general practitioners. Laboratory tests, and the special examinations needed in an increasing number of neurological illnesses are fully explained with broad and interesting comment, and excellently designed photographs and diagrams.

The reader is left in no doubt that modern therapy greatly increases the rewards of prompt and accurate diagnosis in many neurological conditions. The protracted nature of many of these illnesses calls for the highest personal qualities in both neurologist and general practitioner if the patient is to have suffering reduced to a minimum. There will therefore be a wide demand for this book, and that it will be enjoyed by those who read it is, perhaps, not the least tribute that should be paid to Dr Bickerstaff and to his publishers.

Presenting Symptoms in Childhood. JOHN FRY, M.D.(LOND), F.R.C.S. (ENG.), First edition. London, Butterworths. 1962. Pp. viii + 175. 30s.

This is a book written by a general practitioner whose aim it was to write a book for general practitioners. The author's theme is accurate diagnosis and he considers a number of general symptoms such as abdominal pain. Each chapter is broken down into sections and at the end of each chapter a tabulated summary is given.

The first thing considered for every topic is causes and these are listed. This list is followed by a section on pathology, which is, of course, short and only a broad outline, since such a wide field is covered. The author then passes on to diagnosis, and here he presents suggestions for history-taking and special signs to look for during the examination. Following the examination of the patient, it is essential to evaluate the significance of the signs found, and under this heading Dr Fry tries to do this. It is necessary, he states, since the future management of the case depends upon this assessment. The longest section of each chapter deals with specific conditions, giving short clinical descriptions of each condition listed under causes.

The author's style is clear and very much to the point, at times the