

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

writing is almost in note form. This allows the reader to get at the true meat of the book and saves a great deal of time. The tabulated summaries are a great help and make quick reference easy. This is clearly the book of a practising doctor who is clear thinking and has a wide knowledge. It is an excellent acquisition for the general practitioner.

Modern Trends in Orthopaedics—Fracture Treatment. JOHN M. P. CLARK, M.B.E., M.B., F.R.C.S. London Butterworth, 1962. Pp. v + 259. Price 60s.

This multiple author book covers a wide field, and though at first sight it might appear more suitable for the practising orthopaedic surgeon than the general practitioner, the latter will find that it contains a wealth of material that will be useful to him in his daily work. Patients and their relatives usually discuss the treatment carried out in hospitals with their family doctor and it is very necessary that he should be conversant with modern methods of treatment.

The field covered by the various authors is wide and ranges from multiple injuries and the organization of accident services to the treatment of spinal injuries and the intelligent psychological handling of the latter.

The editor has chosen his authors well and the whole book presents a highly competent picture of the present day treatment of fractures. It is, in addition, a most readable work.

Ross's Post-Mortem Appearances. D. M. PRICE, M.D., and C. F. ROSS, M.D., Sixth edition. Lond., N.Y. and Toronto. Oxford University Press. 1963. Pp. ix + 336. Price 27s. 6d.

The present edition, as stated in the preface, is primarily designed for the undergraduate and the trainee-pathologist. For the latter it could hardly be bettered, with its admirable layout, clear descriptions and lists of references at the end of every section, and suggestions for further reading at the end of many. There are, moreover, ten useful appendices, ranging from Anatomical Normals to the handling of Radioactive Cadavers. But it is very doubtful whether the average undergraduate will add the study of this book to his already overburdened curriculum.

The hope is expressed in the preface that the section on post-mortem technique will be found useful by those who may be called upon to perform the occasional autopsy, but this hope is not likely to be realized. This section is far too discursive for the amateur to follow, with his book of instructions propped open on the cadaver; he would be losing his place all the time. To be of value to him, this section should be tabulated. (Query: Are the amateur pathologist's findings of much value?)

Water, Electrolyte and Acid-Base Balance. HARRY F. WEISBERG, M.D. Baltimore. The Williams and Wilkins Company. 1962. Pp. vii + 533. Price 5 guineas.

This book is an interesting combination of the sublime and the ridiculous, in that it contains a thorough handling of the many factors which