

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

now have to be considered when a patient's fluids or electrolytes are upset, together with a number of "cartoons" calculated to drive home certain elementary but important ideas, and perhaps to wake up the reader at intervals. There are 390 pages of text, in which everything of importance seems to get a mention, if not a detailed exposition. Some sections are much better done than others, and this applies particularly to the chapter on Diagnosis and Therapy. There is a large reference section, and a good index.

The book will not find many buyers amongst general practitioners in this country, as they would have to work hard to find the applications of the subject which especially concern them, but it is certainly a book for the student (advanced) and should find a place in medical libraries.

**Practical Electrocardiography.** Third edition. HENRY J. L. MARRIOTT, M.D. Baltimore. The Williams and Wilkins Co. 1962. Pp. xvi + 274.

The title of this book is somewhat misleading in that the basic technique of taking an electrocardiographic tracing is not described, although some useful practical tips for "the technician" are given. The theory of electrocardiography is described briefly, and the main text is concerned with the interpretation of abnormal electrocardiograms. This is very well written and illustrated by over 200 different tracings, including a number of "review" or test tracings. Most of the illustrations show limb, av and v leads.

A special feature is the close and convenient relationship between the illustrations and the relevant text, at the cost of some orthodoxy in the layout. There is an extensive list of references—over 200 in all—given in neatly classified sections at the end of each chapter. In a short section on Electrocardiophogenic Disease the author states, "too many people are limping their way through life, maimed by the unkind cuts of electrocardiographic interpretations". This work will do much to make the cuts more accurate and less unkind, and should be of the greatest value to the growing number of general practitioners who take their own cardiograms. One page 226, figure 164 should read, figure 165—a solitary and not very serious error in an otherwise first-class production.

**The Integrity of the Body.** Sir MACFARLANE BURNET, O.M., F.R.S. Harvard University Press, U.S.A. and London: Oxford University Press, 1962. Pp. vi + 189. Price 30s.

This is No. 3 in the series of Harvard Books in Biology. The subtitle accurately describes it as a discussion of modern immunological ideas, so many of which—one need scarcely add—have come from the fertile mind of the author himself. A feature that medical readers will find stimulating, yet chastening, is his general disregard of the merely practical or technical aspects of immunology—vaccination, allergy, tissue grafting, drug reactions and so forth—and his concern with a theory of the cellular and genetic background.

After a useful account of the origin and development of classical