sant drugs. With such measures he predicts 80 per cent will have no more fits, and such early treatment is more likely to produce the best results. Few would cavil at such arguments but when it comes to telling the patient or his relatives that he is an epileptic after a single episode, as the author suggests, is a more debatable point. This is an excellent, instructive, and thought provoking book, but it is definitely *not* suitable for patients or their relatives as is suggested. It is far too technical and detailed. Brain tumour as a cause of fits is mentioned in the very first paragraph and four times in the first chapter—an excellent warning to a family doctor, but not surely something to suggest to the patient. On the other hand the reviewer has read many books on epilepsy and from the view point of the family doctor this is certainly the best he has met so far.

A Primer of Medicine. M. H. PAPPWORTH, M.D., M.R.C.P. Second edition. London. Butterworths. 1963. Pp. vii + 292. Price 32s. 6d.

The fact that this book after only 3 years (and 3 reprints) appears as a 2nd edition, is in itself a recommendation of a high order, if one accepts that popularity is proof of quality. Here however it obviously demonstrates usefulness, probably to the medical student revising for examinations. It sets out like a manual for a machine, the technical skill, without worrying about theory, presumably hoping that the student has other sources of information for this, if he is the kind who wants to ask " why ". It is certainly packed with most vaulable material and facts, particularly about important signs and symptoms. It will help to encourage clinical examination, which it makes appear so simple and logical. Of course, by necessity to make a useful and concise book, it had to run the gauntlet of generalizations and omissions, which under the circumstances Dr Pappworth has negotiated extremely well. For students and again for practitioners who wish quickly to revise, this is an extremely good book and good value.

Genetics for the Clinician. C. A. CLARKE, M.D., F.R.C.P. Oxford. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1962. Pp. xiv + 294; price 47s. 6d.

This well-written book makes interesting but heavy reading. It aims —according to the cover—at stimulating in the clinician ideas for useful research. For obvious reasons, therefore, many other clinicians will be tempted to close it quickly.

Those who open it by mistake or out of curiosity, like those who come to it intentionally, will—if they persist—find many things easier to understand. Modern genetics are as different from first M.B. mendelism as jets are from toy aeroplanes. Scarcely any large sector of clinical medicine or surgery is outside the pale, a statement borne out by a glance through the long and excellent index—achondroplasia, bacteriophage, coeliac disease, diabetes, epilepsy, fibrocystic disease, gastric ulcer, hairy ears, isoniazid metabolism, leukaemia, muscular dystrophies, nail-patella syndrome, oxalosis, Paget's disease, renal tubular acidosis, suxamethonium sensitivity, twins, Wilson's disease, X and Y chromosomes and, of course, zygotes.

There is an excellent glossary and the bare minimum of " mere