

because of them many well known clinicians do not use long-term anti-coagulant treatment at all.

This book contains much valuable clinical advice and technical details. Some of the latter is not really applicable to general practice; but we know that a few family doctors (and even a very occasional patient who lives abroad, far from any laboratory) can carry out their own prothrombin estimations accurately. It is useful to have all this information, with many references, in a work of this size.

Handbook of Treatment of Acute Poisoning. Third edition. E. H. BENSLEY, *M.B.E.*, B.A., M.D., F.R.C.P.(C), F.A.C.P. and G. E. JORON, B.A., M.D., C.M., F.A.C.P. Edin. and Lond. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963. Pp. vi + 227. Price 15s.

This small book contains a wealth of information in compact form, compiled in such a way as to give a guide to treatment of acute poisoning. The emphasis is on emergency measures which can be employed.

The book is divided into two sections: (1) basic principles—general plan and methods of treatment, and (2) important types of acute poisoning and their treatment.

The second section covers a wide and varied list of poisons considered by the authors to be more commonly the cause of acute poisoning, and a few more rare poisons included because their mode of action or treatment present special features. The treatment of each type of poisoning is divided into that advised before the arrival of the doctor and that after his arrival, thus allowing treatment to be started with as little delay as possible.

This book is small enough to be easily carried in bag or car and is designed to help the doctor with no special knowledge of toxicology who may be called to treat a case of acute poisoning.

Disease in Infancy and Childhood. Fourth edition. RICHARD W. B. ELLIS, *O.B.E.*, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. Edin. and Lond. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963. Pp. v + 717. Price 60s.

This book is a fine example of what a standard textbook should be. Every general practitioner should have it on his shelves for in it he will find full descriptions, written in a clear and concise style, of all the unusual conditions which he may encounter in the course of his practising life. If, however, he uses it to refresh his mind of the more common illnesses of children he may be disappointed. For instance measles is disposed of in two and a half pages and its treatment in ten lines, and here he will find that the routine use of sulphonamides will be of some value in relieving complications and that chemotherapy in the treatment of bronchopneumonia has lowered the mortality from secondary infection. Surely an understatement, and why no mention of antibiotics? Forty-five pages are devoted to tuberculosis, only 39 to other diseases of the respiratory tract, and it is odd that this chapter should be headed "Non-

tuberculous Disease of the Respiratory Tract " thus laying undue emphasis on the importance of tuberculosis in present day practice. The infant mortality rate for 100,000 births in 1961 was 324 from bronchitis or pneumonia and from tuberculosis (all forms) 1.3. This is an example of how this otherwise excellent work is unbalanced. The illustrations are good, the paper and typography excellent and the book is easy to handle in spite of its weight.

The Paediatric Prescriber. PINCUS CATZEL, M.B., B.CH., M.R.C.P., D.C.H., R.C.P. & S. Oxford. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1963. Pp. vii + 261. Price 20s.

The first edition of this small book was warmly welcomed. The second edition is even better. It is better printed on whiter paper, which makes it easier to read. The scheme of dosage now adopted makes it as suitable for use with adults as with children, and much simpler and safer. There is a most valuable chapter at the beginning on antenatal and neonatal prescribing, while evidence of careful revision is given in the final section where transfusion is described for iron poisoning and the use of 2-PAM for insecticide poisoning. In between there are many improvements, large and small, and altogether it can be recommended unreservedly for practitioner and consultant alike. It is packed full of just the information required in any rational prescribing, all beautifully laid out and easily accessible.

Mental Subnormality. W. ALAN HEATON-WARD, M.B., CH.B., D.P.M. Second edition. Bristol. John Wright and Sons Ltd. 1963. Pp. v + 87. Price 7s. 6d.

The Mental Health Act of 1959 repealed the Mental Deficiency Acts. It abolished the previous descriptive terms for amentia, and introduced the terms "subnormality" and "severe subnormality". This small handbook describes concisely and clearly the present extent of our knowledge of the causes, diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of these conditions. There is a description of types of intelligence and personality tests, and a useful summary of the relevant sections of the Mental Health Act that deal with the care of the mentally subnormal.

The family doctor who is concerned about a child's mental development, or who is consulted by parents about the treatment of a subnormal child, or the emotional problems engendered by one, or the risks of further pregnancies, will find useful help in these pages.

The Principles of Rehabilitation. W. RUSSELL GRANT, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.PHYS.MED. Edin. and Lond. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963. Pp. xi + 76. Price 12s. 6d.

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