

thorough and as a medico-social document the work will be read by many interested in this branch of general practice. General practitioners however will lay down the book with a feeling of frustration. They will have discovered little which they did not know before and will have digested many platitudes. In his summing up Dr Kellner writes: "it seems that illness in the family, chiefly severe and prolonged illness, can make the relatives unhappy or afraid or can produce pre-occupation with disease. This may induce them to consult their general practitioner more often; it may sometimes precipitate neurotic symptoms or psychosomatic disorder, and perhaps predispose to physical illness". Well! well!!

Psychological Medicine. D. CURRAN, C.B.E., M.B., F.R.C.P., D.P.M. Fifth Edition. Edinburgh and London. E. & S Livingstone Ltd. 1963. Pp. vi + 417. Price 30s.

The fact that this book has run to five editions in 20 years, speaks for itself. The sub-title of the volume describes it aptly as a short introduction to psychiatry, and it is recommended for both medical students and all non-psychiatric doctors, especially those in general practice. It is well printed, free from jargon and has a free-flowing style which makes for easy reading. The whole subject of psychiatry is covered, and it is refreshing to find so much good sense packed into such a short volume. The introductory chapter is brilliantly written and whets the reader's appetite to know more about the subject which is so often misunderstood. Mental illness cannot be studied in the same way as overt organic disease. For the student the book is a sound guide, and for the postgraduate it is an excellent refresher course. The chapter on treatment is difficult, at a time when new drugs emerge almost every month, but the subject is adequately covered. The last chapter on the legal aspect of mental illness brings one completely up to date. There are one or two small errors. Manic depressive psychosis is given second place as regards mental hospital admissions. According to the 1961 Statistical Review on Mental Health, the admissions for this illness were higher than for any other group. Reserpine is said in some cases to cause depression after four to six months. It can happen very soon after the administration of the drug in those who are going to react. These are minor criticisms in an excellent book which has the added attraction of being reasonably priced.

Aspects of Psychotherapy. I. ATKIN, M.D., D.P.M. Edinburgh and London E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1962. Pp. vii + 103. Price 10s 6d..

This collection of articles is presented by Dr Atkin in "the hope that they will stimulate younger psychiatrists, and be helpful to general practitioners who can spare a modicum of time for psychotherapy."

He commences by recommending a lay definition of psychotherapy as