

but only two lines to the relationship of general practitioners with coroners. Nevertheless, all the non-clinical subjects affecting general practitioners are mentioned, and an excellent bibliography guides the reader to further information. It must be remembered that the booklet is designed as a guide, and therefore lists such as the contents of a doctor's bag are no more than a suggestion, and should not be considered authoritative. Each trainer or teacher will have his own views on this type of subject.

This booklet should continue to be useful to students and young doctors embarking on general practice, and to those of us who attempt to guide them in their careers. It is especially pleasing to note that the profits of this edition will go to the College Appeal Fund.

The Environment of Medical Practice. R. B. ROBINS, M.D. Chicago. Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc. 1963. Pp. v + 357. Price 49s.

The House of Delegates of the American Medical Association in June 1961 suggested that medical schools "should develop and present a required course in ethics and socio-economic principles, and that each state board of medical examiners include questions on ethics and proper socio-economic practices in all examinations for license".

This small volume is a collection of contributions from eminent American physicians with special knowledge of the various fields including, The Human Side of Medicine, The Physician's Place in Public Affairs, Relations with the Medicolegal Officer, with the Health Department. The physician's relations with the paramedical services, voluntary health agencies, with the Government, and with health insurance bodies, are followed by an essay on economics, and lastly by one on ethics.

Essays are on the whole factual, to the point of being dry, and without obvious political bias—although this does occasionally creep in—"its [private health insurance] continued expansion and improvement will assist materially in the preservation of all private enterprise in America from socialistic envelopment".

The editor has been entirely successful in this object of assembling basic background material in the medico-social field, and the volume should prove essential both to the American medical student and to the student of America elsewhere.

The work is well produced, printed on good quality paper, easy to read and to handle as a reference manual. A minor criticism is that despite the editors' intentions and the translators' clarity of language on which they are to be congratulated, the interpretation is not clear and there are minor variations from common use of technical terms, for example the phrase "differential-diagnostic notes". To the family doctor interested in applying modern scientific medicine in his daily work possession of this book will prove a persisting stimulus, for, in the editors' words: "It seemed to us that the only possible way to lighten the burden of, and provide a useful guide for, the doctor and clinical worker was to concentrate on what is important and to explain the indications for certain investigations and their correct application".