

in an excellent chapter entitled "Heart Attacks".

There are some 250 illustrative electrocardiograms (unfortunately not all labelled as to leads), and a number of diagrams, clarifying such mysteries as axis deviation and bundle-branch block amongst others.

This book goes a long way towards simplifying what has become a very complex subject and can be strongly recommended.

Electrical and Drug Treatment in Psychiatry. A. SPENCER PATERSON, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., M.R.C.P. Amsterdam, London and New York. Elsevier Publishing Company. 1963. Pp. v+248 Price 110s.

This book is written with thought based on experience; it is concerned with advances in physical treatment of mental illness since the institution of electrical shock therapy in 1938, but excluding brain surgery. The drugs considered are the spate of new chemicals introduced in the past eleven years—i.e., the barbiturates are not discussed. There are five appendices describing 39 of these new drugs, loosely inserted in a folder at the end of the book. This makes it possible easily to refer to the structure and action of these drugs while reading the text; also it may allow for additions and deletions in subsequent editions.

A great deal of first hand experience has gone into the book, particularly concerning the technique of giving E.C.T. and the use of perphenazine (Fentazin), of which the author has best experience, but the other drugs are treated as comprehensively as our present knowledge permits.

No doubt the improved effectiveness of these treatments has contributed largely to the improved outlook for the psychotic patient, and the more humane and tolerant attitude to insanity shown by the community. To a less degree drugs have been helpful in managing the neuroses and facilitating psychotherapy. But the conscientious reader of the book must reflect on the powers of these treatments for harm as well as good, and hesitate to use them without serious consideration. Sometimes, of course, the illness is so severe as to make the taking of risks justifiable. Dr Spencer Paterson puts the pros and cons fairly, and his book has much of interest for the family doctor, though because of its detail it is primarily for the specialist.

The book is well produced, but the proof-reader has allowed a few minor textual inaccuracies to escape him.

Probation and Mental Treatment. MAX GRÜNHUT, M.A., DR. JUR. London. Tavistock Publications. 1963. Pp. vii + 56. Price 15s.

The Criminal Justice Act of 1948 included a section which provided that offenders might be put on probation with a requirement that they submit to mental treatment for a period not longer than a year. This book is a short and lucid attempt to review what happens to those offenders considered suitable for this course of action. These fall mainly into three