

e.g. meningitis, pneumonia, etc., and he may contract the disease himself and be forced to leave his patients and partners when they need him most”.

The last 40 pages are devoted to appendices, the first on incidence rates, the third on surgery accommodation, organization and instruments, the fourth on records and their analysis. The second is a summary of the author's treatment and prescribing habits, and is surprisingly easy to consult. Knowing on which page a disease is described, a finger run down the right hand column of Appendix II immediately locates his choice of method.

The book is beautifully printed and produced, the index is adequate and the price most reasonable. Dr Hodgkin is to be congratulated on a magnificent effort.

Training of the Physician for Family Practice. Geneva. World Health Organization 1963 (*Technical Report Series*, No. 257). London. H.M. Stationery Office. Pp. i+40. Price 3s. 6d.

This is the report of the World Health Organization expert committee, with the membership drawn from all over the world, that met in Geneva in December 1962. Before considering the problem of training for general practice the committee wisely defines this branch of medicine and its scope and objects, and then continues by reviewing the proper relationship between family doctors and other branches of the Health Service.

The discussion on training falls into four parts. The first two, undergraduate education and graduate training, which is equivalent to our preregistration year, are common to all medical graduates. The second two phases relate to special training for general practice. They are divided into postgraduate training, largely carried out in hospitals, and continuing in service training. The problems have been discussed in a very general way as they might apply to any country, and it is interesting to see that the general principles enunciated and the conclusions reached throughout the whole document are very similar to the ideas that have been put forward from time to time by the College of General Practitioners. That the College has had some influence in international circles is stressed by the fact that the last section of the booklet consists of “The Content of General Practice” produced by the Council of the College.

Preparation of the Physician for General Practice. Various authors, Geneva. World Health Organization, 1963 (*Public Health Papers*, No. 20). London. H.M. Stationery Office. Pp. i+114. Price 6s. 8d. Also published in French.

This booklet contains a report of a conference held in Edinburgh in 1961 by the World Health Organization that was attended by 36 doctors from all branches of the profession, including general practice, and who had a special interest in medical education. Twenty-four European

countries were represented. The conference limited its discussions to the field of undergraduate education and did not discuss the vocational training required by the future general practitioner after qualification.

Despite the varying pattern of medical care in different European countries it seems that all of them are faced with the same problems. First, the shortage of doctors and of places in medical schools, and secondly, the ever-increasing volume of medical knowledge. The conference dealt mainly with the second of these two problems, and assumed that in every country a personal physician will be required by all its citizens.

There are two possibilities. One is to add more and more to the curriculum in the hope that all graduates will have some technical knowledge of all the specialties. The other is to use the pre-clinical and clinical departments of medical schools to teach the principles of scientific thought and method so that graduates will enter their professional career able to learn for themselves, to reason and think clearly, competent in clinical method, and understanding their responsibilities as professional people.

So many ideas are discussed in the eight papers delivered to the conference that it is not possible to review them in detail. The fact that Professor Richard Scott and Dr John Ellis were selected to represent the United Kingdom speaks for itself. Other papers deal with biochemistry, psychiatry, and social medicine as media for teaching the principles of medicine. The final paper by Dr W. Hobson, Chief, Education and Training of World Health Organization, reviews recent developments and the present position in medical undergraduate education in Europe. No one can be expected to agree with all the highly individual views expressed in this series of papers, but everyone interested in the education of general practitioners should read this booklet.

Emergencies in Medical Practice. Seventh Edition. ALLAN BIRCH, M.D., F.R.C.P. Edinburgh & London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963. Pp. v + 784. Price 50s.

Compendium of Emergencies. H. GARDINER-HILL, M.D., F.R.C.P. Lond. Butterworths. 1963. Pp. v + 328. Price 55s.

Birch's *Emergencies in Medical Practice* is a bible to many doctors. Besides being an invaluable book for emergencies it is so packed with information, much of it unobtainable elsewhere, that it is a fascinating book to take up and dip into. Two chapters by Dr Birch himself are extremely valuable. That on "The hazards of medical procedures" is packed with warnings and hints on how to prevent trouble. That on "Medico-legal and other non-clinical emergencies" is most helpful in these days when our patients are so well versed in the law. The Montaignian essay "On what to do when there is little to be done" tells how counterfeited gin may be simulated on a N.H.S. prescription by Spirit and Tincture of Capsitum. Why not Oil of Juniper?

One minor criticism: if in future editions the main entry to a subject