

various papers read there are the basis of this book. Nobody looking at this title would suspect that this is a book full of interest for the general practitioner. Much of it is so purely biochemical or physiological in its content, yet many contributions have acutely applicable paragraphs and chapters which begin to throw light on the apparent confusion of therapeutics. Now that therapeutics is becoming a science, based on measured effects, it is even more important for the practising doctor to be aware of the background information against which his therapeutic armamentarium is assessed, judged and developed.

The battle for the blood levels of antibiotics, the tolerance of various hypotensive drugs are only some of the items which have been bandied about freely by some of the advertising literature. Yet a study of this book gives a considerable insight into the various problems and the excessive caution required. One begins to understand the action of the so-called long-acting or delay release preparations, the claims for which are leading so many of us up the garden path by pseudo-scientific statements. The succinct chapter by Professor Girdwood on the absorption of haematinics, should be compulsory reading for all general practitioners who must be using iron preparations sufficient to build a battleship. The chapter on therapeutic implication by Dr Bernard Brodie from the National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, is a magnificent distillate of present day applied therapeutics. Whilst much is pure science in this book yet do not be discouraged by the title; take your postgraduate education a few leaps further and have a go at the book. The drug companies claims will no longer be "holy writ".

**A Synopsis of Gastro-enterology.** G. N. CHANDLER, M.A., D.M., M.R.C.P. Bristol. J. Wright and Sons Ltd. 1963. Pp. 200. Price 27s. 6d.

This book succeeds the section that was devoted to gastro-enterology in Sir Henry Letheby Tidy's *Synopsis of Medicine*. The author has kept the original style with multiple headings and lists. The staccato presentation makes sustained reading unlikely but the material is very up-to-date and comprehensive. The suggestions given for investigating patients are certainly valuable for those practitioners who are fortunate enough to have open access to pathology and radiology departments. A minor criticism is that the author has not been consistent in his use of proprietary names for the drugs he recommends. For rapid reference on the practitioner's desk this slim volume is wholeheartedly recommended.

**A Synopsis of Cardiology.** D. WEITZMAN, M.D., M.R.C.P. Bristol. J. Wright and Sons Ltd. 1964. Pp. i+200. Price 30s.

A good synopsis should be comprehensive and contain all essential facts with a minimum of verbiage, and the function is primarily that of a refresher. For details and discussion one would turn to a larger textbook. The remarkable advances in cardiology have created the need for a good synopsis, but it is questionable whether this one in its present form quite meets this need. A difficulty is created for the reviewer by the fact that the author does not state which group of doctors he had in mind

when he wrote the book; it contains more than the general practitioner needs to know, but is hardly good enough as refresher reading for a higher qualification. Your reviewer made a list of 24 separate comments and criticisms, which is too long to include here. The author states that it previously formed part of the late Sir Henry Letheby Tidy's *Synopsis of Medicine*, and yet it had many of the hall-marks of a first edition. These could easily be corrected and the next edition could be a valuable book.

The work of the publishers is up to their usual standard of excellence and only one typographical error was noticed (p. 148 the first two lines on anticoagulant therapy are transposed.)

**Uric Acid Lithiasis.** ABRAHAM ATSON, M.D., ANDRE DE VRIES, M.D., PH.D., and MENACHEM FRANK, M.D. Amsterdam, London, New York. Elsevier Publishing Co. 1963. Pp. vii+252. Price 80s.

This book is the outcome of the author's work at the Metabolic Unit of the Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikva, where, owing to the high incidence of uric acid lithiasis in Israel they have had an unrivalled experience of investigating and treating some 200 patients affected with this disease.

Most interest attaches to their claim to have dissolved completely six 'large' and nine 'medium' stones by forcing fluids and raising the pH of the patients' urine to between 6.5 and 7.0. One of their most striking successes is illustrated by two retrograde pyelograms. One shows a stone filling a moderately dilated renal pelvis. The other, taken a year later, shows a normal pelvis and calyces and no evidence of stone.

In addition to presenting their own work the authors give a very comprehensive review of the literature on uricosuria and uric acid lithiasis and discuss every aspect of the problem, apart from the purely surgical. The metabolism of uric acid, the influence of geography, climate, sex and race, the prevalence of uric acid lithiasis, clinical and laboratory aspects, aetiology, treatment and prevention are all considered.

There is also a short chapter of historical notes. There are, in fact, 607 references, which take up 27 pages at the end of the book. A more selective choice would have made for easier reading. As it is, the reader is often presented with contradictory reports, which tend to irritate rather than to enlighten him.

In addition to 48 illustrations, mostly pyelograms which are clearly reproduced, there are 47 tables. Many of these are confusing in their lay-out.

The general style and arrangement of this book does not make for easy reading, and it is unlikely to appeal to general practitioners or medical students. Research workers in this particular field will, however, find it a useful book of reference.

**The Eye in General Practice.** C. R. S. JACKSON, M.A., B.M., B.CH., D.O.M.S., F.R.C.S. Third edition. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. Pp. v+164. Price 25s.

The appearance of a third edition within a few years is evidence of the popularity of this book. It is particularly suitable for students and for