

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