

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

those doctors in general practice who have not done a house job in the eye department. If it errs at all, it is on the side of simplification and dogmatism, but your reviewer recommends it thoroughly to those who want to rub up the subject in the light of recent knowledge. While not leading such students on to specialist prowess, it will nevertheless serve its intended purpose.

Dermatology. R. M. B. MACKENNA, M.A., M.D., B.Chir.F.R.C.P., and E. LIPMAN COHEN, M.A., M.B., B.Chir. London. Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1964. Pp. viii + 279. Price 17s. 6d.

This book is *Aids to Dermatology* of 1954 (4th Ed.) upgraded. The chapters have the same titles though they are arranged in a different order, have been brought up to date, and a new chapter on the cutaneous manifestations of venereal diseases has been added. The format, the type used and the lay-out have been greatly improved and make for easier reading. The illustrations (five in number) are the same except for the first. Some sections have been re-written and additions made. Anthrax and bed-sores, previously omitted, are now considered but no mention is made of telangiectasia in the index.

Although this is designed as a student's textbook it should be a useful book of reference for the general practitioner as he can readily find here the current views on aetiology and treatment. For example the aetiology of rosacea is discussed admirably. Help with diagnosis is difficult in such a visual art as dermatology without illustrations which are bound to be few in a book of this type. But this book together with an atlas of dermatology would be an excellent way of facing diagnostic problems.

It is attractively produced and seems remarkably free from mistakes. One may be mentioned: Atrophic blanche of Milian (not Milan) is mentioned on page 131 (not 130 as in the index).

This small, useful book is strongly recommended.

Venereal Diseases. AMBROSE KING, T.D., M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S. and CLAUDE NICOL, T.D., M.D., F.R.C.P. London. Cassell and Co. Ltd. 1964. Pp. xv + 301. Price 50s.

The production of this excellent book is timely. In the preface attention is drawn to the increase in the incidence of syphilis and gonorrhoea in many countries. In Great Britain this can be attributed to immigrants living in difficult social circumstances, habitual promiscuity particularly among young people, and homosexual practices. Comment is made on the increasing resistance to penicillin of some strains of the gonococcus and the possible effect on venereal disease of the widespread use of antibiotics in the treatment of many other conditions.

The book contains all that is required for a full knowledge of the subject. The diagnostic pathological procedures are well described, so that a doctor far removed from a laboratory could deal with these on the instruction provided.

There are 164 photographs, some clearly demonstrating venereal disease