

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

in various parts of the body, a few microphotographs and a most useful series depicting those conditions from which a differential diagnosis may have to be made.

The only criticism is that some of the microphotographs do not give the degree of magnification, and one error in spelling. This book is highly commended.

Doctors and Family Planning. MARY JEAN CORNISH, FLORENCE A. RUDERMAN, SYDNEY S. SPIVAC. New York. National Committee on Maternal Health Inc. Pp. iii + 100. Price \$2.00.

In 1957 the Bureau of Applied Social Research of Columbia University interviewed about 550 American doctors—gynaecologists, internists and general practitioners—on the role of family planning in their medical practice. Some of the major findings are incorporated in *Doctors and Family Planning* (Publication No. 19, National Committee on Maternal Health Inc., 2 East 103rd Street, New York) by Mary Jean Cornish, Florence A. Ruderman and Sydney S. Spivac. Priced at \$2, the book is free to schools, libraries, governmental and non-profit making organizations and to individuals on request.

The conclusions reached are not particularly startling. Variations in opinion and behaviour among doctors with regard to the giving of contraceptive advice are attributed, as might be expected, to religious beliefs, age, medical specialty, professional status and hospital affiliations, the religious beliefs of patients and colleagues and the kind of community served.

The authors found a reluctance on the part of many to ask their doctors for contraceptive advice and a corresponding reluctance on the part of doctors to take the initiative in offering it. They found also that doctors were often reluctant to discuss the subject of contraception with professional colleagues, though Roman Catholic doctors not infrequently discuss it with non-Catholics "because it is an issue".

There is at present no established medical tradition that to provide advice on contraception is a necessary part of a medical practice. Nor is there yet much formal teaching of the subject in medical schools. Many doctors feel that they should steer clear of giving such advice unless specifically requested by their patients to do so. The typical exception is the younger gynaecologists practising in a community largely non-Catholic which regards contraception as "a good thing".

It is probable that women doctors are more often consulted on this subject by women patients than are men. What proportion of the doctors interviewed in this survey, if any, were women is not stated.

Obstetrics. J. M. HOLMES, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.O.G. London. Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1964. Pp. vii + 256. Price 15s.

This book is one of a series to be published under the title of Concise Medical Textbooks, replacing the Students Aids Series. It is a new book,