

unlike some of the new series which will be re-written or revised from the Students Aid Series.

The author is an examiner in obstetrics to the University of London and gives the student a useful and comprehensive account of the conventional basic knowledge needed for his examinations. In common with many obstetric textbooks emphasis is on subjects of interest to the specialist. For instance, breech delivery has four pages while episiotomy is not indexed and has only a brief description in the text; how to repair a first or second degree tear of the perineum has to be deduced from a description of the way in which a specialist would repair a third degree laceration in hospital under general anaesthesia.

The book is intended for the student and will serve him well. It must not be imagined that it will prepare him for the type of obstetrics required of the general practitioner.

**Pathology.** J. L. PINNIGER, M.A., D.M., F.R.C.P. London. Baillière, Tindall & Cox Ltd. 1964. Pp. 256. Price 15s.

Few doctors, be they students, general practitioners or those working in specialist medical practice, will fail to find in Dr Pinniger's small yet practical book much new knowledge and wisdom. Modern advances have left many branches of medicine rather isolated and in need of fresh information. This book will clarify much we have not fully understood in our past reading; it will also give us encouragement to adventure outside our own immediate work and interests. Under a comprehensive title will be found a clear style and an uncomplicated arrangement of the contents, a great virtue in a book that will fit into the pocket of a white coat. There is a short but brilliant chapter on electrolytes and the body fluids. Also one on the newest concepts of allergy and of anaphylaxis, of auto-immunity and the collagen diseases. The important discussion of the pathology of genes and chromosomes will be gratefully accepted by many students of all ages. Basic science has tended to intimidate the clinician by the very magnitude of the help that has been made available to his patients. Here is a book that helps us to meet this challenge, and it will be for many a guide to a high ideal of accurate practice.

All will deeply regret that this work should be published in the shadow of Dr Pinniger's early death. We express to the author's family and to his colleagues our sincere sympathy.

**Some Aspects of the Work of the Midwife.** A report of the fourth study undertaken by the Dan Mason Nursing Research Committee of the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. 1963. Pp. i+44. Price 3s.

This committee have previously published reports on the work of the recently qualified nurse, the staff nurse and the enrolled nurse and now complete the series with a report on the work of the midwife.

The report is based on returns from a questionnaire circulated to a