

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

sample of hospital midwives, matrons and supervisors of midwives. There were 561 midwives and 169 matrons.

The staffing problem was discussed in the light of the Central Midwives Board finding that only half the qualified midwives were practising but that increased numbers of non-registered midwives wanted to return after a period of family life to part-time work.

The midwives themselves state that the work must be made more enticing by enforcing better hours, increasing co-operation between staff, giving more teaching and more opportunities for study and reducing non-nursing duties such as secretarial and menial washing work.

The matrons report that two-thirds of their establishments are not adequate for training. All want more staff and feel more financial support could be given to free nurses from non-nursing duties. Midwifery is made less attractive to practice than any other nursing jobs because of bad working conditions.

The report of the committee does express the view of the hospital maternity staff. It is an interesting record of the feelings of those actually working in the service. It is lamentable that permission was not obtained from the Society of Medical Officers of Health in time for the questionnaire to be submitted to the midwives in domiciliary practice.

The Control of Diseases. (Social and Communicable). Second edition.

HUGH PAUL, M.D., D.P.H. Edinburgh and London. E. and S. Livingstone Ltd. 1964. Pp. v + 538. Price 75s.

This second edition of 'Hugh Paul' is to all intents and purposes a new book, since the author has rewritten all those sections affected by the advances of knowledge in the past 12 years, years in which the world of viruses is being opened up and the science of epidemiology is broadening to include the degenerative diseases accompanying man's longer living span. Little of the original can remain.

Communicable diseases still occupy the greater part of the book, up-to-date information being given on each in a findable, readable and understandable way. Those conditions which can be related to some aspect of the environment are described in their appropriate context. Disease is looked at on a world scale, essential in days of rapid air travel, and evidence is gathered in of the similarities—and dissimilarities—in the behaviour of communicable disease in different climates and social situations.

The epidemiology of a sophisticated society is considered in the later chapters. The hygiene of air, cross-infection in hospitals and nurseries and the value of modern techniques of mass immunization are considered at length, and the section in which the epidemiology of cancer is discussed in relation to possible factors in the environment which may cause it or influence its course will be of particular interest to members of our College working in this field. It is encouraging to a young College to see recognition of its research endeavours in a work of such importance and the