

knowledge should enable medical students, and new graduates, intending to embark on general practice, to take with them some of the pearls of wisdom which he has gleaned.

Chronic Bronchitis in Great Britain. LESLIE H. CAPEL, M.D., M.R.C.P., and MAXWELL CAPLIN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. London. The Chest and Heart Association. 1964. Pp. 56. Price 7s. 6d.

This is yet another review of the subject. Over the past ten years—following a hundred years of neglect—there has been more written and reviewed about chronic bronchitis than pulmonary tuberculosis.

There are now two problems in chest diseases—chronic bronchitis and cancer of the lung, and they both have the same basic aetiology—sucking up atmospheric filth.

This is a very useful review of the subject by two physicians from the London Chest Hospital. They present the problems in a simple fashion particularly suitable for the medical auxiliaries, i.e. nurses, health visitors and social workers. They consider the epidemiology and the basic aetiology, the progression and evolution of the disease and state that its control and treatment lie in prevention rather than in any new and exciting medications.

A valuable section is that in which the social services may help victims of the disease—but here again the service can only be patchy and first aid, they can only serve to relieve the suffering of the victims and families and cannot really halt the progression without the patient's co-operation in giving up smoking.

Promotion of Medical Practitioners' Interest in Preventive Medicine. Twelfth Report of the Expert Committee on Professional and Technical Education of Medical and Auxiliary Personnel. W.H.O. Technical Report Series, No. 269. 1964. London. H.M. Stationery Office. 1964. Pp. 24. Price 1s. 9d.

This is the fifth World Health Organization expert committee report which directly concerns general practitioners. Like the report on the practitioner's role in mental health care it is about an area of our work where development is most needed and most possible.

This committee set out to study ways and means whereby the practice of preventive medicine may be integrated more fully and as a matter of ordinary routine with the normal curative work of all groups of medical men whose work brings them into personal contact with the public. Its report discusses the need for preventive medicine, the teaching of preventive medicine in the undergraduate curriculum, and the help required by the medical practitioner in the preventive aspects of his work.

On the need to look for means of prevention at all times in every field of medicine, the report seems to say what we all know and to say it repetitively. But clearly the authors are convinced that we do not all

practise what we know—and they are right.

On the teaching of undergraduates:

Many young people are drawn towards the study of medicine because they desire to be of service to their fellow men . . . There is an emotional reaction which displays itself at first in an intense interest in the drama of the operating theatre or in the major clinical life-saving measures. It takes some time for the student to grasp the wider setting in which he will work, and sometimes this may never occur if teaching of the preventive idea, with its social connotations, is inadequate. There is a need to inspire students with a sense of urgency regarding the prevention of disease.

In the third part there is a good understanding of the factors which discourage general practitioners from giving higher priority to preventive work. The committee's suggestions are detailed and practical. They include extra payments for specific preventive activities, encouragement of public health officers to seek the help of practitioners for their own programmes, the subsidizing of postgraduate education about the possibilities of preventing particular diseases, the employment of paramedical persons to assist the practitioner.

It is sad that there was so small a representation of general practitioners on this committee, especially as its report states twice that "the medical practitioner is the key figure in the provision of personal medical services in all countries".

Readings in Psychology. Edited by JOHN COHEN. London. George Allen and Unwin Ltd. 1964. Pp. i + 414. Price 52s. 6d.

This review does not attempt to do individual justice to any of the twenty-three papers collected by John Cohen from previously published material by professors and other experts in their respective fields of psychology in Britain; France and Switzerland also providing a contribution each. Nor would the reviewer suggest that the volume has any direct contribution to make to general practice. But that is beside the point. To quote from the preface: "This book is designed to introduce the student and the general reader to selected topics in contemporary psychology". The selection is, as the editor emphasizes, a personal one, but the topics included range from the historical and theoretical to practical problems of psychopharmacology and animal physiology. As one might expect of such a selection the ease of reading is far from uniform. But nowhere is it dull.

This is much more than a "Recent Advances in Psychology". It is a book that will repay reading by experts in the fields represented, as well as in those which are not. It emphasizes the essential continuity of purpose that characterizes the scientific study of man, both in an historical sense and also in terms of the growing need for intercommunication between the specialists in their respective fields of activity. The details appear at times conflicting, but this tends only to heighten the overall sense of creative tension, of direction, of problems yet to be unravelled which these readings develop.