

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.