

**An Introduction to Electrocardiography.** Second edition. L. SCHAMROTH, M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.P. Oxford. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1964. Pp. x +165. Price 20s.

The general practitioner, interesting himself for the first time in electrocardiography, commonly experiences difficulty in starting. Chapters or sections devoted to the subject in most books are so sketchy that they are very difficult to understand. On the other hand, the large detailed books designed for specialists are daunting to all but the most heroic. There was room in the middle for a good primer and the subject of this review fills the gap admirably. It is well written in clear unambiguous language and very well illustrated with line drawings and reproductions of electrocardiograms. By keeping his descriptions of electrocardiographic abnormalities short and concise, the author has managed to cover practically the whole field and the book is unusual for its comprehensive account of arrhythmias and conduction defects. The index is adequate.

The work of the publishers is excellent. The book is a convenient size measuring 6" x 9", has a stiff back and is clearly printed on good quality semi-matt paper. At the price it is a remarkable production and deserves to be a best-seller in this field.

**Chemistry and Treatment of Adrenocortical Diseases.** F. T. G. PRUNTY, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. Illinois, U.S.A. Charles C. Thomas. 1964. Pp. xxxviii +380. Price \$14.00.

It is difficult to review this book without the excessive use of superlatives. It is certainly the best available book on the adrenal cortex at present.

It is difficult to understand how a book of this size and completeness can be so up-to-date except on the assumption that Professor Prunty has learned to do without food and sleep. So rapidly has knowledge of the adrenal cortex advanced that it presents a rapidly moving target which can be photographed only by an instantaneous exposure. Yet the field is so wide that only a panoramic camera can follow it and one end has moved by the time the other end has been reached. Somehow, Professor Prunty has achieved the impossible feat of showing the whole subject in a moment of time, in a recent moment, too.

In most respects it is a very complete book. The whole physiology and biochemistry of the adrenal cortex is admirably reviewed, and it will be a necessary book in the library of every endocrinologist. But, as is to be expected in a book by a professor of chemical pathology (albeit a consultant physician as well), the clinical aspects are treated in less detail. In a book of 380 pages the diagnosis of Addison's disease is summed up in four and the treatment in four. Other purely clinical subjects have equally scant attention. For this reason it is a book which, for all its great appeal to the clinical scientist, will have less for the general practitioner.

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