

prefabricated and new buildings, reveals the highly individual approach of general practitioners to their job.

It is good to see so much emphasis placed on appointment systems. The three described, working in different types of practice, justifiably indicate that general practitioners who claim that "an appointment system won't work in my type of practice" are really saying "I don't want one".

Crombie's chapter on Diagnostic Methods should be read by all embryo general practitioners. It should be a great help to them in bridging the gap between hospital training and general practice. It is well known that it takes five years to assimilate.

This is a most timely publication with some evidence of hurried preparation. The plans in Lester's chapters are not up to the standard of architectural draughtsmanship, making them more difficult to follow. But it is a book that all general practitioners should study.

**Human Relations and Hospital Care.** ANN CARTWRIGHT. London. Routledge & Kegan Paul. 1964. Pp. x + 262. Price 30s.

This is a further report produced by the Institute of Community Studies and deals with hospitals, patients, doctors, nurses, etc., in all the various sociological situations connected therewith. Such a large field obviously needed a large team and this is shown by the fact that 40 people are named as assisting in the project; among them (no titles being used) one is able to recognize well-known social workers, general practitioners and consultants. In any statistical review such as this 'tables' play an important part and in fact it can be said, without being unduly critical, that the tables can tell the tale by themselves and that a lot of the letterpress, though it makes interesting reading, only seems to elaborate the tables. In other words it is a book for reference but not one which the family doctor should keep in his own library.

The family doctor will learn a lot about the need for taking the patient into his confidence and treating him as a human being and not merely as a National Health number. This theme runs throughout the book and one of the main difficulties with which the patient is confronted is learning enough about his progress and ultimate fate to be able to co-operate fully in his treatment.

Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, "Your patient has no more right to all the truth than he has to all the medicine in your saddle-bag—he should get only so much as is good for him". Nevertheless it is obvious that one of the shortcomings of our hospital services is the difficulty of the patient or the relatives being able to discuss matters with either a doctor or sister. After reading this book it is abundantly plain that there is a shortage of hospitals and staff; this we all know, but if this book helps to accentuate this fact it may well stimulate further pressure upon the powers-that-be to remedy it.