

Conference on the use of tape in medical teaching. Edited by JOHN and VALERIE GRAVES, the Medical Recording Service, College of General Practitioners. Price 1s.

The report on this Conference, which was held at 14 Princes Gate, London, S.W.7, on 26 October 1963, has now been published. Approximately 50 distinguished teachers met to listen to talks and illustrations on the use of tape for medical teaching. The printed report, unhappily, cannot reproduce the recorded illustrations, nor has any attempt been made to use the diagrams which enlivened the conference. Nevertheless, there are many valuable opinions and facts in the report, and it should be read by all those who teach medical subjects, if only to set them thinking about their conservative ways.

Some points brought out by the speakers were that students appreciated a taped lecture because they could listen to it at a time to suit themselves, and could stop, make notes, replay, and go at the speed that suited them; visual aids can be combined with taped lectures, particularly slides and diagrams; a taped lecture saves valuable lecture-man-hours; spoken words hold attention better than written ones, and allow much more variety of emphasis; tapes are useful in remote places where the post can go, but not the lecturer; discussion groups form freely round tape sessions, and are more outspoken because the lecturer is not present; and so on. It will be a strange teacher who will not get some new ideas from this booklet.

Monopoly or Choice in Health Services. Contrasting Approaches to Principles and Practice in Britain and America. London Institute of Economic Affairs Limited. Pp. 56. Price 5s.

This small book collects together an important debate. Should the supply of medical care be based on the principle of consumers' sovereignty or be made the subject of collective provision? This debate on principle becomes, in effect, one about the relative merits of the British and American systems of providing medical care.

Dr D. S. Lees' Hobart paper *Health through Choice* (1961) stirred a long critique by Professor R. M. Titmuss (*Ethics and Economics of Medical Care*). This article in turn provoked replies from Dr Lees, Professor John Jewkes and Sylvia Jewkes and Professor Arthur Kemp (an American). Basic concepts of the National Health Service are under scrutiny.

Although Dr Lees' paper stirred the controversy, it is Professor Titmuss who holds the centre of the stage in this book—if only because all the other writers devote themselves to attacking his viewpoint (he supports in principle the present arrangement in this country).

To go into further detail would mean taking sides in a controversy which affects us all, but where the right answer is clearly *sub judice*. Anyone interested in the economics of medicine will enjoy this vigorous and close-packed presentation of the arguments.