

tion in the evaluation of new treatments and the follow-up of cases is particularly important.

Dr Cochrane has devoted most of his professional life to the study of leprosy. Since his early years as Professor of Medicine at Vellore Medical College he has striven to bring method and order into research and knowledge of all aspects of this disease and, in particular, to divest it of its emotional overtones. Great as his own contribution to the knowledge of leprosy has been, perhaps his most important achievement has been the enthusiasm he has fired in others and through which he has inspired experts in the basic sciences as well as specialist clinical departments to tackle the protean aspects of research in leprosy and to have persuaded them to make their contribution each in their special fields. Dr Cochrane and Dr Davey have brought all these together into a co-ordinated and readable volume which represents the best of modern thought on this subject from the finest authorities in every part of the world. The skill of the editors makes one feel that the volume has been designed and contributed as one whole.

No less than 43 authors have co-operated to cover every aspect of leprosy from a historical survey to its spread throughout the world, through bacteriology including the submicroscopic appearance of the lepra bacillus, on to pathology and neuro-anatomy, thence to immunology and clinical aspects including every possible complication. A full detailed account on modern developments in treatment both of the disease and its complications, and fascinating details on reconstructive surgery of the face and trophic and other deformities lead, by way of physiotherapy and occupational therapy, to consideration of prognosis and criteria of discharge. It ends with a considerably extended section on preventive aspects.

The influx of immigrants into Britain makes the possibility of seeing a case of leprosy in general practice considerably greater than it was a few years ago and, while this volume is clearly not a 'must' on a general practitioner's bookshelf, it should be found in every university and central library as a book of reference.

**Soil-Transmitted Helminths.** Report of a WHO Committee on Helminthiases. World Health Organization, Geneva. 1964. Pp. 70. Price 5s.

In a matter of 70 pages a wide and detailed coverage is given to all soil transmitted helminths. As this problem is largely a tropical one it is therefore not of very great application in the United Kingdom. However, it should be remembered that in those areas where there has been large scale immigration from tropical territories the immigrant population carry a considerable risk of introducing infection. If sanitary standards are allowed to fall indigenous transmission could become a very real possibility where no intermediate host is involved. Visceral larva migrans is being more frequently recognized today and cases have been reported from the United Kingdom and this subject is dealt with in considerable detail.

With an increasing number of the population taking their holidays

abroad in the Mediterranean and Balkan countries, in some of which sanitary standards are less than satisfactory, the risk of contracting ascariasis at least has increased. For this reason the subject of soil transmitted helminths should interest the general practitioner, and as a ready book of reference this small report could hardly be bettered.

**Handbook for the Catholic Nurse.** K. F. M. POLE, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., M.D., London. Robert Hale Ltd. 1964. Pp. 190. Price 15s.

Primarily addressed to Catholic nurses this small book gives an exposition of Catholic medical ethics which should be of use to a wider circle. The author stresses in his introduction that there is no such thing as denominational medicine and expresses the hope that non-Catholic doctors and nurses "may benefit from the exposition of the Christian moral principles common to us all, and by being given the reason for the Catholic attitude wherever it differs from their own."

All the major ethical problems likely to be confronted are dealt with fully and, on the whole, accurately. Not everyone will agree with Dr Pole's preference for the calendar method of assessing the infertile period, as against the basal temperature method. He also makes the rather sweeping assertion that hypnosis as a means of anaesthesia has *no* advantages over conventional anaesthetics.

These are minor criticisms of an otherwise excellent production for which there has been a definite need. I have already heard of one Catholic student nurse, working in conditions of (religiously speaking) some isolation, who has found it of the greatest help.

#### CORRIGENDUM

It is regretted that *Die Gezielte Diagnostik in der Praxis* and *Feinstruktur einer Allgemeinpraxis* were described as being in the joint authorships of Robert N. Braun and Hans Schulten. Introductions to both these books were written by Professor Schulten but Dr Braun was responsible in both cases for the authorship of the books.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED

**Bibliography on the Epidemiology of Cancer 1946-1960.** World Health Organization. Geneva. 1963. Pp. 168. Price 17s. 6d.

**Directory of Convalescent Homes.** The British Hospitals Contributory Schemes Association (1948). Bristol. 1964. Pp. ix + 63. Price 5s. 0d.

**Directory of Hospital Contributory Scheme Benefits.** The British Hospitals Contributory Schemes Association (1948). Bristol. 1964. Pp. 54. Price 10s.

**Travelling Without Tears.** MICHAEL H. K. IRWIN, M.D., M.P.H. The British Medical Association. London. 1964. Pp. 30. Price 1/1s.

**Easy Childbirth.** ELLIOT PHILIPP, M.B., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G., and ERNA WRIGHT, S.R.N., S.C.M. The British Medical Association. London. 1964. Pp. 30. Price 1s.