

of the complementary nature of clinical, laboratory and population studies. This is not so much a textbook as a way of thinking.

Current Achievements in Geriatrics. Papers read at a conference on Medical and Surgical Aspects of Ageing, held in Glasgow, 20-22 November 1963 under the auspices of the Glasgow Postgraduate Medical Board. Edited by W. FERGUSON ANDERSON and BERNARD ISAACS. London. Cassel and Company Ltd. 1964. Pp. xii + 268. Price 30s.

This short book is a collection of the papers read at a conference on medical and surgical aspects of 'ageing', held in Glasgow in November 1963. The conference was divided into five sections with papers on epidemiology and gerontology, cerebrovascular disease, urology, psychiatry and clinical topics. The section on epidemiology and gerontology was not concerned with infectious diseases but with the application of epidemiological methods to certain geriatric problems, such as the cause of death in old age. This particular study shows quite clearly that multiple pathology is the rule and not the exception. These methods of studying the elderly define where the major problems lie and where most effort must be directed whilst resources and manpower are limited. Cerebrovascular disease is the cause of much distress and many deaths in the elderly. This section included papers by a neuropathologist, a neurosurgeon and a physician, all of whom have an essential part to play in the diagnosis and treatment of this condition.

'Water troubles' cause much discomfort and a great deal of social inconvenience in the aged. The value of cystometry in the investigation of urological disease is stressed. Some differences of opinion are evident amongst the contributors on some subjects: for instance on the value of chlorhexidine swabbings prior to the collection of samples of urine. The papers on psychiatry reveal the growing problem of mental ill-health in old people and the strain it is putting on the National Health Service. The dementias and depressions seem to be the main disorders found. The final session was concerned with clinical topics. The chairman in his opening remarks said he detected a common theme—trauma, not only physical trauma but malnutrition, pressure, cold and coal-gas poisoning.

This book is a collection of interesting and up to date papers giving an account of 'what is going on' in geriatrics. Time spent reading it is time well spent.

Basic Cardiology. Second edition. T. E. GUMPERT, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P. Bristol. John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1964. Pp. vii + 234. Price 42s.

This is an excellent book. The claim that it bridges the gap between the specialist cardiological texts and the necessarily concentrated account often found in standard textbooks of medicine is well substantiated—in fact, the practising cardiologist could read this book with profit. Six years have elapsed since the first edition appeared; it is a reasonable assumption