

information being contained in the text. Here there is little to quarrel with but the author is surely in error when he states that the left hand is intravaginal in a bi-manual examination. This is queried here because he gives minute instructions for the performance of each item of examination. In a detailed description of pain in the hand and arm there is no mention of the carpal tunnel syndrome and he omits the valuable sign of shoulder pain in basal pulmonary embolus. Inches and centimetres both appear as units of measurement. The last chapter which deals with the use of the laboratory in diagnosis is balanced and sensible.

Some of the author's aphorisms are worth recording. "The most important sound in medicine you will ever hear is the voice of your patient". "Concern yourself less with the kind of stethoscope and more with the development of the receiver of the sound from the stethoscope". "Do not close your eyes to observations contrary to preconceived ideas".

As a bedside book for the practising doctor this volume, by a keen and sympathetic observer is most valuable and so written as to be entertaining.

Review of Clinical Phonocardiography. D. C. DEUCHAR, M.D., M.R.C.P.
London. The English Universities Press Ltd. 1964. Pp. xiv + 130.
Price 25s.

The stated intention of the author is to introduce the reader to the potentialities and current usage of the phonocardiograph. A short description of the instruments and techniques is followed by an account of present day views on the mechanism of sound production in the heart and great vessels in health and disease. The time relationship of these sounds within the cardiac cycle is clearly described and illustrated. There are eight photographic reproductions of phonocardiograms showing simultaneous tracings of respiration, carotid pulse and electrocardiogram, but otherwise the illustrations are line drawings of good quality.

The index is good, and whenever there are several references the page number of the main one is given in heavy print. The book, which is one of the Modern Medicine Series, is well produced, has a stiff back, and is the same size as the *College Journal*.

The whole problem of auscultation of the heart and the interpretation of sounds heard in diseases and abnormalities of the heart is clarified by reading this book. This is specially important to doctors who received their training and qualified before the recent advances in cardiology and cardiac surgery. In fact, the book might be more widely read if "and auscultation of the heart" were added to the title.

Electrocardiography. R. W. D. TURNER, O.B.E., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P.,
F.R.C.P.E. Second edition. Edinburgh and London. E. and S.
Livingstone Ltd. 1964. Pp. xviii + 155. Price 21s.

The material in this book should have a familiar look to many general practitioners because it is based on a series of articles on "Clinical Electrocardiography in General Practice" published in *The Practitioner* in 1962. These articles were so well received that the decision was taken to republish them in book form and the first edition appeared in 1963.

The success of this book is shown by the need for a second edition in 1964. The limp cover has been replaced by a stiff back and the binding is therefore firmer, but otherwise there appears to be no change.

The book is well written, well balanced and adequately illustrated; it bears that indefinable stamp of the experienced clinician and teacher. In describing and illustrating the uses of electrocardiography, the author is at great pains to stress and reiterate its limitations; it is just as important to understand what cannot be done with electrocardiography as what can, and a separate chapter—Discussion—is mainly devoted to this. It is the author's opinion that, as a rule, electrocardiography should not be undertaken by general practitioners, and the object of this book is to show general practitioners the type of information which can be obtained by electrocardiography, the indications for such investigation, and its limitations. These objects are admirably fulfilled.

Physician's Handbook. Thirteenth edition. Edited by MARCUS A. KRUPP, M.D., NORMAN J. SWEET, M.D., ERNEST JAWETZ, PH.D., M.D., and EDWARD G. BIGLIERI, M.D. Oxford. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1964. Pp. iv + 558. Price 34s.

This is the thirteenth edition of the Physician's Handbook, the editors having maintained their usual practice and produced a revised edition within two years of the previous one. The entire text has been revised and a new chapter on medical genetics added.

The first article in the handbook deals with the clinical examination of patients. The authors say that "... this must be carefully performed, correctly interpreted and correlated". They continue that the laboratory examination, the main topic of the book, is an extension of the clinical examination, and surely this is correct. In practice today the doctor is becoming involved in screening procedures for such conditions as cervical carcinoma and diabetes mellitus. How tempting it is to screen rather than examine. The importance of adequate note making is also stressed, this could also become a lost art.

The handbook is written largely in note form, with clear headings, and a well set out type making it easy for the reader to pick out relevant sections. Many of the chapters go into great detail, in some cases it would seem too great, reflecting the vast amount of information available and possibly a fault of this type of collective book. There are many diagrams and drawings, but no reproductions of x-ray photographs. This is a mixed blessing, some typical x-rays are usually selected for textbooks, and in practice the abnormal is often seen. The drawings in the chapter on medical parasitology deserve special mention. They are excellent.

It was difficult to find any omissions: the immunological pregnancy test, now in quite common use, is not mentioned, nor is the iron-sorbitol-citric acid complex mentioned in the treatment of hypochromic anaemia. Begimide is not considered in the treatment of barbiturate poisoning. Since the book is an American production there is the usual problem over the differences in drug trade names; however, approved and chemical names are given throughout.

This handbook is an absolute mine of information, an excellent book for the medical registrar reading for membership, and a useful reference book for the general practitioner.