

Handbook of Medical Treatment. Ninth Edition. Edited by MILTON J. CHATTON, M.D., SHELDON MARBEN, M.D., and HENRY BRAINERD, M.D. California. Lange Medical Publications. Oxford. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1964. Pp. iv + 716. Price 37s. 6d.

This is the ninth English edition of this handbook, there having been one Italian edition.

The handbook is a collection of 24 chapters each written by a different author or, in some cases, by a group of authors. This follows the pattern of most textbooks of medical treatment reflecting the rapid advances and changes that are taking place and the impossibility for one man to keep abreast of all developments.

This handbook gets off to an excellent start. On page one it states that each patient is an individual and that treatment must be flexible enough to meet the individual patient's need. Each chapter follows the same general pattern. The disease under consideration is stated, followed by a very brief description and in some cases by a survey of the main diagnostic points. The major topic discussed is, of course, the treatment. This is often broken down into sections such as specific, general, emergency and follow-up. Several of the chapters deal with systemic diseases, others with diseases of similar origin such as infectious diseases. One difficulty encountered in the book is the naming of drugs; the chemical name is used throughout, followed by the American trade name, in some cases the compounds are easily recognizable but many are not. Several abbreviations are also used some of which are uncommon in British practice, a key to these is given at the back of the book.

There is little to criticize in this book, but should rheumatic fever be considered as a disease of unknown aetiology? This handbook is well produced with many tables and diagrams, the text is clearly set out being mainly in note form. There is an absolute wealth of detail but essential points are easily picked out. There is a good index and the usual tables of body normals.

This is a good book and suitable for use both in hospital and general practice.

Atlas of Human Anatomy. Seventeenth edition. FERENC KISS, M.D., and JANOS SZENTAGOTHA, M.D. Oxford, London, Edinburgh, New York, Paris, Frankfurt. Pergamon Press. 1964. Volumes 1-3. 319 pages each. Price £6 6s.

This three-volume atlas is beautifully produced. The illustrations are all that could be desired, clear, clean and well labelled. General practitioners seldom require to go back to detailed anatomy but when they wish to refresh their minds on a detail, they do not want to wade through long and detailed accounts of such things as muscle insertions or of the relation of an artery to the surrounding tissues. A good diagram is all that is needed. In these volumes they will find all they require. As a present to a son or daughter embarking on the 'second' professional this work would make a wonderful present and at six guineas it is very good value.