

A Guide to the Diseases of the Nose, Throat and Ear for General Practitioners and Students. E. G. COLLINS, M.B., CH.B., F.R.C.S.E. 1964. Edinburgh. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. Pp. viii + 359. Price 36s.

It is stated in the title of this book that it is for general practitioners and students. It differs from the usual textbook on this part of the body by including in detailed description only minor surgery, though very brief accounts are given of major procedures.

This reviewer had hoped for a new approach to this subject, but was disappointed. It would be valuable for the general practitioner to be able to revise his knowledge of laryngitis, deafness or labyrinthitis by finding a section of the book devoted to the subject of choice. In this book vertigo and nystagnus appear in chapter XXI, pyogenic labyrinthitis in chapter XXII, neurolabyrinthitis in chapter XXIX and Meniere's disease in chapter XXX. The anatomy of the eustachian tube on pp. 230-231 comprises the whole of Part IV of this book of five parts. The treatment of infection of the pharyngeal end of the tube by drops of a solution of ephedrine "in the manner described" occurs on p. 290. There is no page reference to "the manner described", but this is given on p. 93 under therapy and can be traced through the index. A description of politzerization and catheterization is to be found on p. 323.

The book contains everything a general practitioner needs to know on this subject, in the form of so many textbooks for so many years. I do not think it gains anything from being written in the first person. It is very well produced in the usual high standard of E. & S. Livingstone.

A few suggestions for improvement are these. The coloured plates of abnormalities—all erring somewhat on the side of crimson—have no normals for comparison. Treatment of extrinsic carcinoma of the larynx has been omitted. Under Deafness in Children, "Congenital abnormality, e.g., Thalidomide babies" should surely come under prenatal and not postnatal conditions. Here and there exists a confusion between symptoms and signs. For example on p. 310 after the heading Symptoms, one reads "The most important sign of a sinus thrombosis is . . ." The sentence at the bottom of p. 143 and top of p. 144 does not appear to make sense and must surely contain a misprint or omission.

How to Interpret Renal Function Tests. JEAN F. FORGE. Bristol. John Wright & Sons Ltd. Pp. 67. Price 8s. 6d.

This pocket book is No. 15 of a series translated from the French. It covers the ground in a comprehensive and clear fashion, and includes nearly all the practical knowledge available on the subject. The only addition your reviewer would have made would have been a short section describing the effect of early circulatory failure on the specific gravity of urine by night and day, and the reversal of the normal pattern which is then seen. This could have been added conveniently to the account of the Volhard concentration tests, which such changes can invalidate.

For anyone who wants to brush up his knowledge of kidneys and their function tests, this little book is a fortunate find.