

Book Reviews

Cerebral Infarction. A. BARHAM CARTER, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.M.
Oxford, London, Edinburgh, New York, Paris, Frankfurt. Pergamon
Press Ltd. 1964. Pp. xi + 209. Price 63s.

Cerebral infarction is an increasing problem due in part to an increasing number of old people in the population (cerebral infarction being more common in the elderly), and also probably due to a true increase in the incidence of the disease.

This book considers the problem from all angles. The author gives a report of his own experiences in dealing with the disease during the last ten years, and also presents a survey of the findings of other investigators. This is done in an impartial manner, the similarities and the differences being brought out and discussed. The first chapter deals with the anatomy and physiology of the cerebral circulation, it is brief but quite adequate. This is followed by chapters on pathogenesis, embolism, thrombosis, differential diagnosis, natural history and prognosis, treatment, results of treatment and rehabilitation. These are all very detailed and in some cases involved: however, the text is broken down into many subsections which makes reading a good deal easier. Many of the chapters overlap with repetition of information, this is done in an attempt to make each chapter complete in itself. Dr Carter states in his preface that "... it is my experience that more is to be gained by reading a chapter at a time, or by reference to individual points, than by reading a whole book".

This book is very well produced, and the subject matter well presented. Many x-ray photographs, drawings, tables and diagrams are included. These all give added interest as do the many illustrative case histories included from the author's own collection.

This is a most interesting and stimulating book; good reading for all doctors. However, at 63s. a book on such a limited subject could price itself off the general practitioners' bookshelf.

The Encyclopaedia of General Practice. Edited by G. F. ABERCROMBIE,
V.R.D., M.A., M.D., and R. M. S. MCCONAGHEY, M.D. London.
Butterworths. 1964. Volume 6. Pp. 526. Price £4 5s. per volume.
(£29 15s. the set of 6 volumes with appendices and index.)

In this sixth and final volume of the encyclopaedia (sleep disorders to wrist joint) there is a smaller proportion of authors who are in general practice and no more examples of joint authorship of general and specialist experience in a subject, which can be so fruitful for the reader. The change in proportion of authorship adds to the authority of some of the sections but leads to loss of freshness and relevance in others. Sleep Disorders (F. A. Jenner) contains information not easily available in other text books of medicine, but is little related to the form in which complaints of disordered sleep reach us; the gnawing of anxiety in the small hours, loss of sleep habit from persistent disturbance by restless child or