

chronic invalid, the light short sleep of the aged or examinee for instance.

Surgery (David Kyle) contains a section on after-care seen through the personal doctor's mind, admirable in approach, though the last sentence on hopeless prognosis will not be accepted as the only sound advice; "The family must know the truth, but the patient never". In Preoperative Preparation the general-practitioner author is shown at his best. Minor Surgery is restrained and instructive. Tremor (Reginald Kelly) offers just what we need for quick reference in relation to examination of a patient. Tropical Medicine (K. M. Cobban) is written with the richness of his experience in practice, first in this country, then in Africa, though with less first-hand knowledge of the East. His emphasis through 90 pages on the unfamiliar and the pitfalls that exist, is always related to the basic principles of applied medicine.

Tetanus (J. W. G. Smith) is presented with clarity and decisive instruction, and Tetany (C. J. Dickinson) gives the differential diagnosis in two vigorous pages. Tinnitus (H. Ludman) offers firm guidance for the treatment of the obsessional aspect that all too frequently complicates this symptom.

Tonsillitis (Stuart Craddock) is a competent and realistic review of all aspects of this condition which is seen frequently in family medicine. Wrist Joint (Ronald Furlong) includes paragraphs on the painful wrist in girls and young women, and the still more anomalous post-traumatic bone atrophy, but makes no reference to occurrence of torn wrist cartilage met on several occasions by this reader.

The completion of the six volume work is an achievement. The test of the index is to come, which will no doubt add much to the usefulness of the whole. And now what next, supplements or a future edition? The editors have given us a valuable new tool and are to be congratulated.

**Cystic Fibrosis—A Symposium.** Report of a meeting held on 28 May, 1964 at the Wellcome Foundation, London. Published by the Chest and Heart Association. Pp. 128. 18s. 6d.

Cystic fibrosis is a new entrant to the diagnostic stakes since many of us were at our medical schools but it is a condition with which general practitioners are going to be increasingly concerned. This applies immediately to members of the College whose interest and help is invited in a prospective study of this condition.

Cystic fibrosis of the pancreas is a genetically determined disorder the distribution of which can be calculated, and its occurrence predicted if certain marriage patterns take place. The diagnosis can be confirmed by a number of clinical features but it must first of all be suspected, and referred for close study, by practitioners who are alert to its existence.

In the report of this symposium the practitioner will find a complete refresher course, telling him nearly all he would like to know about the condition. The characteristic lung changes are described as well as those in the pancreas and other glands. No clinical feature is absolutely specific but recurrent whooping-like cough, loose stools and saltiness of sweat occurring together in an infant or child form a strongly suggestive pattern.

The management of the diagnosed case, as described in the later

chapters is a protracted and complicated business involving all the skills of a department of paediatrics at various times, but in between admissions the affected child must be guarded from infections which can barely be resisted by the practitioner-parent team. Antibiotics, and exercises learned at hospital can be combined in a regime of treatment supervised by the family doctor.

Few symposia have been so effectively produced as this, a hardback, the glossy pages of which suggest that the next coloured illustration will be Peter Rabbit in a bed of lettuces rather than goblet cells in bronchial epithelium. The book can be read in an evening and such is its lucidity, much that it contains is remembered. Its perusal by general practitioners will be a curtain raiser to a new research study by the epidemic observation unit of the College.

**Fibrinolysis.** British Medical Bulletin. 1964. Vol. 20. No. 3. London. The British Council. Pp. 79. Price 30s.

Fibrinolysis is a subject of great interest. The removal of fibrin and the subsequent resolution of inflammatory states has long been appreciated but it is comparatively recently that this subject has been investigated with a view to applying the underlying physiological principles to thromboembolic pathology.

This issue contains 14 papers in which the whole state of present day knowledge of fibrinolysis is reviewed. The one which deals with thrombolytic therapy will probably have the greatest immediate appeal to general practitioners. Many of us made mistakes by rushing in with cortisone therapy without first appreciating the dangers and difficulties. Here is an opportunity to learn the caution and limitations imposed on therapy with streptokinase and urokinase, both of which are commercially available, before attempting to use them indiscriminately.

Those who are familiar with the extremely high quality of work presented in the British Medical Bulletin know that it is not for casual reading . . . it requires a quiet room and both elbows on the table.

**Some Aspects of Chronic Bronchitis.** Proceedings of a Symposium held at The Royal Society of Medicine, London, November 1963. Edited by F. A. H. SIMMONDS, M.A., M.D., D.P.H., and L. B. HUNT, M.A., M.B., B.Chir., D.P.H. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1964. Pp. vii + 87. Price 12s. 6d.

In the thirteen short contributions by different speakers and in the discussion all the aspects of chronic bronchitis important to the general practitioner are covered—epidemiology, natural history, aetiology, pathology, diagnosis, prevention and treatment. Several of the contributions are notable for their clarity of presentation and only one is notably obscure. Here, then, is a useful monograph on this disease which is so important to readers of this *Journal* and on which so much work has been done in the last 15 years. The considerable contributions made by individuals and groups in this College finds ample recognition in it. The reader will look at his bronchitic patients with renewed interest and confidence.