

such and such a drug has been found of value.

One word of criticism; it is a pity that the medical treatment of gynaecological, ear, nose and throat and genito-urinary complaints have been omitted. For practitioners would have to have four or five more books to cover the drug treatment of such diseases as carcinoma of the breast, or prostrate; senile vaginitis, conjunctivitis, otitis externa, when another 50 pages in this book would cover the whole field of general practice therapeutics.

**Management in Obstetrics.** ANDREW M. CLAYE. Oxford University Press. 18/-.

It is most unfortunate that so many professional authors should publish books written in a style in which they are accustomed to lecture to classes, but entirely unsuited to a printed treatise. They quite fail to understand that the method of expression should be quite different and that writing requires a higher standard of English prose.

The author has fallen headlong into this trap and the book itself suggests a series of modified lecture notes. It is difficult to read and there are irritating changes from objective description to experiences described in the first person. There is also a bad habit, which often recurs, of emphasizing passages by putting them into heavy black print somewhat reminiscent of the underlining of important points in coloured chalk on a school blackboard. A ponderous humour in the chapter headings is more reminiscent of the nineteenth century novel than a present day clinical publication.

This is sad, for the author has taken trouble in collecting his material and verifying his references, and the substantive facts are sound, and many of the observations well worth noting. He has the courage of his convictions, and has no hesitation in stating what he himself does.

This virtue, springing as it does from practical experience, is the redeeming feature of the book which, if only it were easier to study, would be of sound value. The gold is there but it needs a lot of refining to discover.

**The China Roundabout.** Josephine Bell. Hodder and Stoughton, 1956. pp. 223. Price 12s. 6d.

We are always interested to read of general practitioners who have made their mark in another field. The dust wrapper of this novel, and a most delightful wrapper it is, tells us that Mrs. Bell was until recently in general practice. The tale follows the usual detective story technique: the major mystery; the periodic sudden death of the characters; the handful of likely murderers; and the incidental romance conform with the standard formulary of detective fiction. Dr. Bell has succeeded in instilling into her mixture a greater quantity of probability than is usual; her handling of the medical characters and of the scenes in hospital are, as we have a right to expect, particularly good.