

considerable amount of information that is lacking and which it is necessary to discover before we can begin to get this mortal and disabling condition under control. Although complete control is perhaps a long way off, we can now, as a result of this and other work already reported and being carried out, begin to treat our bronchitics along more understandable and rational lines, and improve their expectation of life and relieve some of their distressing symptoms.

**Modern Trends in Geriatrics.** Edited by WILLIAM HOBSON, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H. Butterworth & Co. Lond. 1956. pp. viii & 422. £3 12s. 6d.

The so-called specialty of geriatrics arose through the relative neglect of old people in long-stay hospitals; a neglect which was chiefly due to the fact that the authorities responsible for the management of these institutions kept them grossly short of staff. The main concern of geriatricians should be the study of these conditions which are unique to the aged; the response of the old to illness; and the prevention of disease and disablement amongst them. The work under review satisfies the first two criteria but falls far short of the third. The first chapter on "general problems of ageing" is an excellent introduction to the whole subject, and, from the point of view of the general practitioner, those on chronic bronchitis, skin conditions and gynaecology will be of use. The chapter "a problem in the home care of the elderly", tucked away at the end of the volume will disappoint many, and that on glycosuria gives a clear and concise account of diabetes without any real guidance on the treatment of the senile diabetic. Arthritis, that great crippler of the elderly, is not awarded a chapter, and what references there are are scanty. In common with all symposia the quality of the contribution varies, and a tighter editorial rein would have produced greater cohesion in an otherwise useful volume.

**Textbook of Medicine.** Edited by SIR JOHN CONYBEARE and W. N. MANN. 12th Edition. E. & S. Livingstone, Ltd. 1957. pp. XVI plus 862. Price 42s.

The latest edition of this famous textbook is well up to the high standard of its predecessors. The reviewer was 'brought up' on the 5th edition (1940) and since then, despite the vast expansion of medical knowledge, the editors have succeeded in compressing 'Conybeare' from over 1,100, to a mere 862 (admittedly slightly larger) pages. In this compass the entire field of medicine, including tropical diseases, psychiatry, and skin diseases, is covered without any gross omissions and in a pleasantly readable style.

The material is up-to-date although there is some evidence of