tions between these events were not deeply hidden. In the diseases to which epidemiological observation is now applied there are few beginnings and fixed points so that their study resembles completion of a jigsaw; little pieces of evidence have first to be discovered and then fitted together to make a meaningful pattern.

Dr J. N. Morris, in the work under review, discusses the modern application of the epidemiological method to the broad field of preventive and curative medicine. Opportunities there are in plenty, each receiving but brief mention before the next is presented, and it is unfortunate that so much matter is so tightly compressed. The informed reader, who is familiar with the many original studies which are quoted, will benefit far more from the erudition displayed than will the humble seeker after knowledge. Though the book is addressed to " students of both clinical and preventive medicine " these may find themselves short of breath from the effort of keeping up with the author.

The general practitioner who is familiar with morbidity will be disappointed to find how much emphasis and store is still set upon mortality. He, too, knows well the many factors which dilute the accuracy of certificates of incapacity on medical grounds and he may not esteem statistical conclusions derived from them. Nonethe-less this book will remind him of his opportunities and that his part in the new epidemiology is a very important one indeed. The family doctor stands closest to the environment in which much needed evidence is to be found and he has much to offer to the epidemiologist of today. Perhaps he will offer much more to the epidemiologist of tomorrow.

Aids to Ophthalmology. P. McG. MOFFATT, M.D. (Lond.), M.R.C.P., F.R.C.S. (Eng.), D.O.M.S. Students' Aid Series, Eleventh Edition, Lond. Bailliere Tindall and Cox Ltd., Lond. 1957. pp. viii + 282. Price 10s. 6d.

This little book was first published in 1908, and it is truly remarkable that it has satisfied a demand for almost half a century. In these circumstances, it seems churlish to criticize, but this is done in the hope that it may prove helpful.

The frequent alterations which have been made in its passage through eleven editions have not eradicated the Edwardian aura which it still wears (the use of leeches, pp. 82, 89; blistering, p. 82; iron and cod liver oil, p. 82; " tonics may do good," p. 93; reference to microbes, pp. 37, 53, 65; generous diet and quinine, p. 64; cover and uncover the eyes, p. 10; " autointoxication from chronic constipation," p. 60; " hot dry application—pieces of hot brick wrapped in flannel," p. 60; vaccines, p. 83). What is the date of the statistics, p. 62, and have they any relation to the present day ?

The treatment of acute infections might be brought up to date; the Wassermann reaction and the Lange colloidal gold curve should be inserted, p. 109; there is a place for cortisone in the treatment of burns and scalds, p. 130.

The changing face of medicine has changed the emphasis on lachrymal obstruction in infants, which now appears to be almost the commonest cause of discharging eyes; and is the historical survey of gonococcal ophthalmia (p. 27) necessary in a book of this size? The accompanying sketch (Figure 18) could be omitted as quite useless.

The use of the ophthalmoscope in the diagnosis of malignant hypertension should be stressed (p. 106), and also that the changes observed in this condition are often completely reversible.

I have seen acute glaucoma caused by the prolonged use of belladonna for asthma, and this might be mentioned (p. 87). Hyaluronidase should be mentioned in the treatment of " black eye " (p. 134). The description of retinitis pigmentosa should include mention of the Laurence-Moon-Biedl syndrome.

I can think of better phrases than " can be made out " (p. 78); capitals are not needed for acetylcholine and priscol (p. 105), and " recipitates " should read " precipitates " (p. 74).

If the description of staining techniques is necessary (p. 16), they should include " fixing," which might prevent the preparation from being washed down the sink.

None of these criticisms is very important in isolation, but in the aggregate they destroy confidence in a book which deserves effective revision and which could be made most useful to the general practitioner.

A Practical Handbook of Midwifery and Gynaecology for Students and Practitioners. W. F. T. HAULTAIN, O.B.E., M.C., B.A., M.B., B.CH., F.R.C.P. (Edin.), F.R.C.S. (Edin.), F.R.C.O.G., and CLIFFORD KENNEDY, M.B., CH.B., F.R.C.S. (Edin.), F.R.C.O.G. Fifth Edition. Edin. and Lond. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1957. pp. x + 410. Price 30s.

A more accurate description of a book than that given in the title it would be hard to imagine, for this is indeed a practical volume without waste of space or words. It is a most useful quick reference book for the family doctor and worthy to find a place on his or her bookshelf. Among the many short books on midwifery and gynaecology this stands out as something different and, combining the quick study of both, is a very inexpensive book.

The severely practical style makes it a quick reference book only, it is not suitable for and is not intended to be a book for detailed study. It is written for the individual who has an important but