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

limited interest in the subject, and while it is both for student and practitioner this book should be of more use to the latter as fitted to stimulate memories of more detailed knowledge tucked away in the corner of the mind.

The type of book makes it essentially dogmatic in style and the practitioner should remember that opinions are opinions and not statements of fact even when given by authorities on any subject, and that time and circumstances may lead to alteration.

The print is good and easily legible, the diagrams and illustrations are clear and the binding suitable.

Spot Diagnosis. Compiled by the Editors of the *British Journal of Clinical Practice*. Volume III: Harvey & Blythe Ltd. London. 1957, pp. 141. 10s. 6d.

The third volume of *Spot Diagnosis* follows the general format of its predecessors—in Part I, a picture with a brief explanation is given and, over the page, the answer with a discussion and some notes as to treatment. The cases are selected at random so that they form a most useful exercise, either as revision, or as preparation for a final examination. The pictures of clinical cases are very well produced, but some of the chest x rays are a little indefinite.

In Part II, a selection of surgical, medical, obstetric and gynaecological cases are presented with a picture or x ray and then discussed some pages later. These discussions are comprehensive and very informative.

This is a most stimulating book, and one which I could not put down until I reached the end, although I had seen many of the cases in the *British Journal of Clinical Practice*. On re-reading it, one finds that its interest remains and its finer points are appreciated better.

Bedside Diagnosis. CHARLES SEWARD, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Edin.) with foreword by LORD COHEN OF BIRKENHEAD, M.D., D.SC., LL.D., F.R.C.P., F.A.C.P., F.F.R. Fourth Edition. Edin. and Lond. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1957. pp. xxiv + 430. Price 21s.

When the medical student embarks upon his clinical work, he studies diseases systematically, either morphologically according to the part of the body primarily concerned, or aetiologically from the causative agent. Practically all the standard books on medicine have been written from these points of view. In the ward he completes the detailed clinical picture of the diseases which he has studied in lectures or textbooks.

In *Bedside Diagnosis*, Dr Seward has approached the problem in a different and extremely enlightened way, for the doctor in after