

tative commentary upon the obvious questions which will be posed many times over during 1968.

The last two sections, pathology and history, consist of one paper each. The pathological conditions discussed relate only to the vasculature, but within this limitation the presentation is concise and clear, and in a short space provides a useful source of reminders for the medical man likely to be confronted with diagnosing cardiovascular or respiratory distress at altitude. The history of exercise at altitude is long and fascinating. Contemporary material is available, though perhaps not everywhere accessible. Against this background the historical contribution to this book is a mere note. It would have been better to have omitted any reference to the history of the subject.

In summary, then, the general medical reader will find parts of this book essential reading if he is to be up to date with this topical subject. The specialist will find it a well-produced collection of generally clearly written papers limited to the subjects selected for presentation at the symposium on which the book is based. It is not a balanced presentation of the state of the whole subject as at September 1966; certain parts are allotted only a small proportion of space, while other relevant subjects are not specifically covered. For example, a section devoted to endocrinology would have been appropriate. The nervous system has found no place and psychological factors have been ignored. Taking exercise at altitude can result in many more pathological states than are dealt with under "pathology" here. Provided these limitations are borne in mind the book can be recommended to all with an interest in the subject.

E. S. WILLIAMS.

Ideas on Dyslexia

The Disabled Reader. Education of the Dyslexic Child. Edited by John Money. (Pp. 421+xiii; illustrated. 68s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1967.

The use of words is learned chiefly through the auditory system being correlated with vision, so that by constant repetition and copying of the parent's voice certain words become

linked to certain objects and people. Learning to read and to write involves a much more complex correlation between symbols of various shapes and arrangements in relation to this organization. Further, the understanding of position of objects or letters in an order or pattern seems to involve the child's body image or his awareness of the arrangement of his fingers, limbs, and body in relation to each other and to their environment.

An inability to learn to read may merely reflect a low level of intelligence, but in an appreciable number of children this difficulty, when analysed, is found to involve some particular physiological link in the processes involved. This volume presents the ideas of many students of dyslexia, and will be read with interest by those who are interested in the problem. No two children are alike, and it seems unlikely that rules can ever be established to indicate the best method for any one group, but the subject nevertheless merits the close scrutiny given in this volume.

W. RITCHIE RUSSELL.

Aids for Ancillary Staff

Assisting the General Practitioner: A Manual for the Doctor's Secretary, Receptionist, and Surgery Nurse. By N. D. Mackichan, B.A., M.B., B.Chir. (Pp. 264+xii; illustrated. 35s.) London: Pitman. 1967.

This book is the first to be written specifically for the general practitioner's secretary. It will be welcomed by all who consider that some training is necessary for those intending to work in general practice as secretary, receptionist, or nursing assistant. It will help to define the range of knowledge required from such a training, and will serve as a useful textbook for students attending formal courses of instruction.

Like many textbooks, this book makes dull reading. Most of the pages contain long, sometimes repetitive lists that itemize the ideas elaborated by the author. Such a style is didactic, but it helps to make the book very comprehensive. A brief introductory account is given of the National Health Service. This is followed by a description of the work done by the general practitioner, his

secretary, receptionist, and nursing assistant. The chapters dealing with the receptionist and secretary are good, but those dealing with the work of the general practitioner do not emphasize sufficiently his primary role, which is the treatment of sick people. Instead, the author tends to overemphasize the practitioner's role in co-ordinating the work done by other branches of the Health Service. This imbalance of emphasis is due in part to the author's attempt to describe fully the varied role of the general practitioner, and in part to the didactic style of the book. A certain amount of therapeutic negativism is also evident. It seems unnecessary to refer patients requiring cholera and T.A.B. immunizations to a public health department, when this can be done quite easily by the practitioner himself. Similarly, a patient suffering from acute pyelitis should receive early treatment with antibiotics, and these should not be withheld until the report of a urine culture has been obtained or the patient's condition deteriorated to such an extent that admission to hospital becomes necessary. The suggestion that a patient should be referred to an ancillary aid for "talk therapy" when a definite diagnosis has not been made must also be deplored.

The section devoted to the duties of the nursing assistant needs revision. It tends to perpetuate obsolescent attitudes and techniques. Greater emphasis should be placed upon the use of sterile disposable equipment, the dip-stick method of urinalysis, and on the direct use by the practitioner of the laboratory and x-ray services. Some instruction should be given in venepuncture, as routine work of this type can be done by a trained assistant. She should also know the uses of peak flow meter, and an increasing number of practitioners would like her to be able to connect a patient to an electrocardiogram and to dismantle the equipment afterwards. She should know how to fix a cervical smear and the basic principles involved in the application of a simple plaster-of-Paris splint.

In short, this book was greatly appreciated by the medical secretaries who have read and discussed it with me, but a second edition will need to be considerably revised.

W. DEWI REES.

Books Received

Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.

Interferon. Ciba Foundation Symposium. Dedicated to Alick Isaacs, F.R.S. Edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme and Maevae O'Connor. (Pp. 271. 60s.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1968.

Nutrition and Infection. Ciba Foundation Study Group No. 31. In honour of Professor R. Nicolaysen. Edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme and Maevae O'Connor. (Pp. 144+viii; illustrated. 18s.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1967.

Le Chronocardiogramme. La Méthode des Tracés Synchrones. By Professor H. Warembourg and Dr. P. Dubar. (Pp. 186. 49 F.) Paris: Expansion Scientifique Française. 1967.

Le Cerveau Primitif Chez l'Embryon Humain de 34 Jours. By Maurice Solère. (Pp. 43; illustrated. 11.50 F.) Paris: Expansion Scientifique Française. 1967.

Animal and Clinical Pharmacologic Techniques in Drug Evaluation. Vol. 2. Edited by Peter E. Siegler, M.D., and John H. Moyer, III, M.D. (Pp. 876+xv; illustrated. £11 14s.) Chichester, Sussex: John Wiley. 1968.

The Baboon in Medical Research. Vol. 2. Proceedings of 2nd International Symposium on the Baboon and its Use as an Experimental Animal. Edited with a foreword by Harold Vagtborg, M.S., Sc.D., LL.D. (Pp. 908+xiii; illustrated. £7 3s.) London: American University Publishers Group. 1968.

Atlas de Coupes Anatomiques. Part 2. Membre Inférieur. By J. Castaing and J. H. Soutoul. (Pp. 172; illustrated. 40 F.) Paris: Librairie Maloine. 1968.

Foie et Glandes Endocrines. Edited by H.-P. Klotz. (Pp. 348; illustrated. No price given.) Paris: Expansion Scientifique Française. 1967.

Mécanique du Cœur et des Artères. By L. Vadot. (Pp. 254+vi; illustrated. 78 F.) Paris: Expansion Scientifique Française. 1967.

Abnormal Hypnotic Phenomena. A Survey of Nineteenth-Century Cases. Vol. 1. France. Edited by Eric J. Dingwall, D.Sc. (Pp. 328+vii; illustrated. £2 10s. Set of four, £8.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1967.

Abnormal Hypnotic Phenomena. A Survey of Nineteenth-Century Cases. Vol. 2. Belgium and the Netherlands. Germany. Scandinavia. Edited by Eric J. Dingwall, D.Sc. (Pp. 256+viii; illustrated. £2 10s. Set of four, £8.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1967.

Le Système des Anastomoses Artério-Veineuses. By J. Terracol and A. Aimes. (Pp. 308; illustrated. 48 F.) Paris: Librairie Maloine. 1967.