are presently in a dynamic state of rapid evolution, which renders parts of the review liable to early obsolescence, it is likely that it will remain a major source of reference for some time. It is highly to be recommended.

Medicine, Mind and Man. An Introduction to Psychology for Students of Medicine and Allied Professions

By J. COHEN AND J. H. CLARK. Pp. xviii+401. W. H. Freeman & Co., Reading and San Francisco, 1979. £10.00 (hardback), £4.95 (paperback).

Whilst many doctors feel that they know a great deal about psychology and emotional aspects of medicine, there is considerable evidence that few really do. Shortened medical courses with increasing information to be learned creates a pressure to skip over some aspects of the course. Unfortunately, psychology is all too easily dismissed as requiring only common sense.

Books aimed at correcting this are therefore to be welcomed, and Cohen and Clark's book, would seem a useful addition. The 18 chapters are divided into 7 sections dealing with such broad topics as 'Basic issues', 'Psychological aspects of paediatrics' and 'Medical decisions'. Some parts are rather too long without sub-headings and tables are relatively few with no diagrams or illustrations. Generally the style of writing should have produced a warmer view of medicine than actually comes across.

These shortcomings, however, are outweighed by the book's advantages. The text concentrates on areas of primary interest to the trainee physician, but still manages to contain considerable technical detail. Subject matter varies from road traffic accidents to cannibalism, the latter perhaps of only tangential interest to most clinicians in this country. Throughout there is an eclectic approach, and an interesting historical background is often given (although it is hoped that it was a slip of the pen that named Sir Thomas Brown and not Burton as the author of the *Anatomy of Melancholy*). Most notable are the impressive reference and reading lists given at the end of each chapter. A number of references have additional notes and the reading lists start with brief commentaries. These could well seduce the interested student into a career in psychiatry.

Medicine, Mind and Man can be recommended to students as a book to buy, not only for professional technical information, but also as a source of ammunition for after-dinner debates.

Microscopes from the Frank Collection 1800-1860

By R. H. NUTTALL. Pp. 64, illustrated. A. Frank, Jersey, Channel Islands, 1979. £4.50.

This slim volume is far more than a catalogue of early 18th century instruments, though even were it restricted to these, the illustrations and descriptions would have considerable interest. Included are valuable sections describing the background to the mechanical and optical development both in this country and abroad of the instruments of the early 19th century, particular attention being paid to the development and application of the achromatic objective during this time period.

The volume is obviously the work of a scholar and perhaps because of this assumes too high a level of knowledge by the average reader. Thus this reviewer was unable to obtain from its content any knowledge of the location past or current of the Frank collection, the history of its assembly or indeed any information as to the nature or objective of the man who established this. Other deficiencies include rather unclear accounts of the formation and assembly of the achromatic objective and the use without definition or description of

many specialist terms. For example, I remain uncertain as to what exactly constitutes a Lieberkuhn, and whether this should be spelt with a lower case or capital 'L'. Also, the many attractive drawings in the margins are not numbered, so that it is difficult always to refer them to the appropriate sections in the text.

Overall, this is useful historical compilation for the expert but of limited attraction to the interested amateur.

Modern Topics in Paediatric Dermatology

Edited by JULIAN VERBOV. Pp. 220, illustrated. William Heinemann Medical Books, London, 1979. £11.50.

Well produced with mostly good black and white illustrations, evenly edited (the Editor does not contribute a script), balanced better than most many-authored texts, I recommend this book as certainly superior to the Dermatology chapters included in the standard larger paediatric reference texts from both sides of the Atlantic. Carping adverse criticism is expected of one who receives his copy without cost to himself: what about the dust cover stating that 'this is the first British book . . . and then in several chapters including the one on rheumatic diseases, pushing those 2 parvenu foreigners, Schönlein and Henoch, whilst our own genius, William Heberden, 1802, is ignored; some chapters have a profusion of references, others have none, others still have an odd selection such as in the chapter by J. J. Cream where historical personages are remembered, and he modestly omits his own considerable contributions to the subject; pubic lice *are* to be found in children, in their eyelashes for example; is the full definition of Koebner's phenomenon that it is 'a tendency to follow the lines of minor scratches' and can this term be correctly applied to viral warts that are seeded into the skin like radishes?

The balance and choice of subjects is good, the simple lists of each topic as a group before they are treated is clear and makes a casual glance at the book more useful, the authority of the authors is not to be questioned, and the general impression I gain is that the current trend of splintering paediatric dermatology from the general speciality of dermatology, gaining momentum in Europe and the Americas, might indeed be justifiable.

Practical Guide for Medical Officers for Environmental Health

Compiled by ANDREW B. SEMPLE AND J. K. JOHNSTON. Pp. 81. Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, London, 1979. £2.50.

This compact volume shows a wide grasp of the subject matter with an eye for essential detail. The authors have researched it well. The text is under 2 main headings. Firstly, the Medical Officer of Environmental Health as Proper Officer to the Local Authority with his responsibilities with regard to notifiable diseases and food poisoning, including the international aspects; secondly, his role as medical adviser on environmental health matters, dealing with air, water and soil and their contaminants, and problems arising from waste control, radiation, heavy metals and toxic accidents. Attention is also given to compulsory removal under section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, to medical assessments of applicants for rehousing, to occupational health provision for local authority staff, and to the duties of medical referees under the Cremation Acts. There are substantial lists of references and names and addresses of relevant organizations.

It is to be hoped that there will be further editions as the services change and develop. These could include additional