Books received


New Edition


Book reviews

Short Textbook of Orthopaedics and Traumatology


This has the makings of a very good little book. The author has given considerable thought to the problems facing the undergraduate. He has selected his material with care, has omitted unnecessary detail, arranged the text in an unusual but useful manner, and provided a considerable number of clear diagrams. With all these praiseworthy achievements the text should be an excellent introduction to orthopaedics and traumatology; unhappily the author has been let down by his proof readers.

The innumerable spelling mistakes should not have passed unnoticed—they irritate the initiated and may mislead the beginner. As for the diagrams, although their boldness is praiseworthy, they should not be so crude as to be positively unaesthetic. Incidentally, three of the six diagrams in Fig. 96 are upside down, and Fig. 54 is incorrectly labelled. It may be excusable to spell Perthes' with an apostrophe before the 's' because it is such a common error, but when did that celebrated Dubliner Colles change his first name from Abraham to Benjamin, a curious distortion of biblical genealogy? It may be excusable to omit any description of the routine clinical examination of bones and joints on the assumption that the student will use a different book for this purpose or will learn it in out-patients, but surely he should not need yet another book to find the dosages of drugs—and these are consistently omitted.

The aim of the E.U.P. series is a good one. Students do need a text which is brief and which is cheap enough to be expendable in a year or two. But economy is no excuse for carelessness. We look forward to a second edition which will realize the high potential value of this book.

Psychiatry—Medical Outline Series


This is a paperback edition of a comprehensive textbook of psychiatry written by two senior psychiatrists with wide teaching and clinical experience. The principal orientation of the text is practical and clinical and with an attempted eclectic theoretical basis although the bias is inevitably towards psychodynamic formulations and considerations. The four main sections of the book are concerned with considerations of personality development and techniques of examination, nosology and natural history, treatment procedures and, finally, a section primarily concerned with forensic and historical (not only American) aspects of psychiatry.

The book is specially aimed at the American undergraduate and postgraduate student of psychiatry. For instance, the final section also includes examples of the type of question likely to be encountered by the trainee psychiatrist when he sits the American equivalent of the D.P.M. In the reviewer's opinion many of these questions are sensible and searching and provide a useful starting off point for the student and the curious alike.

The book is easy to read and contains a lot of clinical sense. It would be worthwhile and of value alongside other textbooks of psychiatry on the shelves of medical school libraries as well as being of value to the postgraduate.