the notation which is described clearly, will become sufficiently familiar to make frequent reference to the glossary unnecessary.

It is not possible in small compass to do full justice to the author's grasp of the whole field of respiratory function and to his ingenuity in formulating its details without appearing fulsome. It is quite apparent that he has an equal grasp of the clinical aspects of his work and he illustrates the usefulness of the computer model as a teaching device over and over again. This is an important and stimulating book which amply repays the trouble of reading.

Drug Therapy Reviews, Volume 1

A consequence of the rapidly expanding number of drugs available for doctors to prescribe is the plethora of review articles, journals and books which attempt to give guidance on how, why and what to choose. Some, of course, are more impartial than others, and one could not wish for a more objective and unbiased assessment than the papers in this book which began 'as an effort to provide concise, up-to-date reviews of drug therapy to the staff of the New England Medical Centre in Boston, Mass.' It is of high quality throughout, and some chapters, for example on narcotic analgesics, are outstanding examples of authoritative, factual and unequivocal advice. Others, such as those on procainamide and total parenteral nutrition have been overtaken by events, at least in this country, and herein lies a recurring problem, namely that many important effective drugs used by European doctors are not available in the U.S.A. and so find no mention here. This limitation, and a relatively high price will severely reduce its usefulness and appeal to British doctors.

Essentials of Geriatric Medicine

This is the third edition revised and brought up to date, of the handbook which is based on lectures to undergraduate and postgraduate students. It gives a concise yet authoritative account of the more important medical problems of old age. The book is far from being comprehensive, but rather a selection of topics in which the author is especially interested. The book is divided into four parts. In the first he relates the basic data of ageing, describing the physio-pathological concepts of senescence.

Part two deals with the essentials of geriatric clinical practice, including discussion of such subjects as the implications of an ageing population, altered patterns of disease in old age, the definition of gerontology and geriatrics and geriatric clinical methods.

Part three contains chapters on common complaints in old age. Instead of describing systematically the disorders of old age, the author has selected the most important clinical syndromes, those which will be encountered by doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, social workers in their daily care of the elderly. There are excellent chapters on confusion, delirium, dementia, cerebro-vascular disease, Parkinsonism, diabetes, hypothermia, incontinence, pressure sores, malnutrition, metabolic bone diseases. As one would expect, the section on strokes and neurological disorders is especially informative. The subject of incontinence does not fill six pages, yet it contains the essential information which would be appreciated by those who care for the elderly.

I am not convinced of the necessity of including in this part a chapter on terminal care of cancer patients. It is unlikely that many geriatric units will have to care for many of these patients especially if they are under sixty-five. It cannot be denied, though, that the ethical problems of prolonged dying, of control of pain, anxiety and depression, are subjects of immense importance to geriatricians and general physicians alike.

Professor Adams' writing is clear, makes it easy to understand, moreover the choice of topics is well balanced. The title of the book is well justified: the essentials of geriatric medicine are there. For those who wish to study extensively a given subject, a useful guide and selective bibliography are given. There is in addition a check-list for annual re-examination of long-stay geriatric patients and a subject index. All in all a very useful hand-book on geriatrics which I can highly recommend to medical students, young doctors and, in general, to all those caring for the elderly.

Fundamentals of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

When the first edition of this book appeared in 1970, it rapidly established itself as one of the best standard text books of gynaecology on account of the well written and authoritative nature of the text and the very clear accompanying photographs and charts. Particular emphasis was paid by the author to the medical and psychosomatic aspects of the subject whilst much less note was made of surgical techniques, it being felt rightly that these could best be learnt by observation.

The second edition now makes a welcome appearance and continues in the fine tradition of the first. There have been additions to many chapters, incorporating changes in management over the last few years; other chapters remain substantially the same. The chapter on human sexuality has been enlarged and rewritten as has the chapter on conception control and the author is to be congratulated on the very high quality of the illustrations, diagrams and flow charts. Despite the revision and enlargement of certain sections, there has only been an increase of 15 pages in the book; there has unfortunately been a sharp increase in price as a result of the ravages of inflation, but the book remains highly competitive and is very good value for money.

It is difficult to speak too highly of this textbook which not only succeeds in being clear, concise and well written but also makes reading it enjoyable.

Hypoxia and Ischaemia. The Proceedings of a Symposium Organized by The Royal College of Pathologists

It is a tribute to the many distinguished contributors to this Symposium as well as to its editor and the Journal of Clinical Pathology that these proceedings have been published so swiftly. The contents can therefore be regarded as being as up to date as the printed word can ever be. The subject is highly topical and the contributions of physiologists, anaesthetists, physicians, surgeons and research workers in addition to specialist pathologists have resulted in a most successful interdisciplinary production, remarkably balanced and full of information.

The first chapters are general and relate to oxygen availability, tissue oxygenation and the biochemical consequences of hypoxia on energy production and on the functions of special organs. In the first of the chapters devoted to local topics Doss the Hoechst views the mechanisms of hypoxic pulmonary vasoconstriction including much of his own work at high altitude and the next chapter on hypoxia and the carrotid body comes from the same school.

The pathology of myocardial ischaemia includes the...