medical authorities, the subject matter has never been better displayed. The appearance and arrangement are excellent, the illustrations are uniformly first class and there is a very detailed index so that as well as being a book suitable for systematic study it will be eminently useful as one of ready reference and, in our opinion, should form a part of every medical student's own library.

ESSENTIALS OF MODERN MEDICAL TREATMENT.

By VINCENT NORMAN, M.D., Etc. Messrs. Hutchinson. 1936. Price 10/6.

This book is essentially one of treatment and as is indicated, one that can be used for ready reference. It is, as it is meant to be, one for the use of the "General Practitioner." Of late years there have been rapid advances in the treatment of disease, and it is very difficult for the busy practitioner to keep up to date with modern methods. It is an opportune time for the appearance of such a book, which contains just this information and which at the same time is small and eminently readable. The author has omitted all unnecessary material, and has given in a comprehensive form modern advances in treatment in so far as they can be effective and practical.

The book is well arranged and easy of reference. Further editions, brought up-to-date, should continue to be invaluable to the general practitioner who has not the opportunity of keeping in touch with modern practice as demonstrated in Post-Graduate and other courses.

HANDBOOK OF DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

(SECOND EDITION.)

By BRUCE WILLIAMSON, M.D. Messrs. E. & S. Livingstone. 1936. Price 10/6.

Dr. Williamson is to be congratulated on packing so much information in a readable and interesting fashion within the space of 300 pages, and that the presentation is appreciated is demonstrated

by this, the 2nd edition, being called for within the comparatively short period of five years. We cannot recommend this volume to the student as his only textbook on pædiatrics because it suffers, like all such condensed treatises, from too much dogmatism (the author's own views being too baldly stated) and hence a lack of perspective. Nevertheless, as a means of quick revision it will be found useful.

THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF DISEASE.

(A Preliminary Communication.)

By W. M. STEVENS, M.D., F.R.C.P. London. 1936. H. K. Lewis & Co. Price 2/- net.

In the foreword to this small monograph the author explains that it is merely a condensed extract of a much larger work which he hopes to publish in book form before long.

With his main thesis that "the real aim of Medicine should be the prevention of disease, so that death ensues only from accidents or from natural senescence" there is hardly anyone who will disagree. Dr. Stevens lays stress on the importance of the endocrine glandular system as a natural protector of the body, and maintains that iodine has a highly specialised function as an activator of the various glandular activities essential to normal metabolism and to protection against disease.

Little, indeed, is known of the endocrine mechanism of the body, but Dr. Stevens' ideas, so far as we can gather them from this very brief preliminary communication, are certainly interesting, and in our opinion may well represent some vision of the ultimate truth. We must confess that we can hardly go all the way with him in his enthusiasm for iodine in regard to the prevention of almost all the diseases that man is heir to, but we hope to see in the main work, of which this monograph is but the herald, some more solid and convincing evidence of the attractive hypothesis to which he has introduced us.