Books received

Hypertension: Causes, Consequences and Management. By GEORGE PICKERING. Pp. 108, illustrated. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1970. 35s.

Taste and Smell in Vertebrates. Edited by G. E. W. WOLSTENHOLME and JULIE KNIGHT. Pp. 402, illustrated. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1970. £4.

Hormonal Management in Breast Cancer. By BASIL A. STOLL. Pp. 169, illustrated. London: Pitman Medical & Scientific Publishing Co. Ltd., 1969. £4.

Alzheimer's Disease. Edited by G. E. W. WOLSTENHOLME and MAEVE O'CONNOR. Pp. 305, illustrated. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd., 1970. £4.

Progress in Gastroenterology. Edited by GEORGE B. JERZY. Pp. 543, illustrated. London and New York: Grune & Stratton., 1970.

Abortion in a Changing World. Edited by ROBERT E. HALL. Pp. 377, illustrated. Columbia University Press, 1970. \$10.00.

Handbook of Psychiatric Consultation. By JOHN J. SCHWAB. Pp. 318. London: Butterworths, 1970. £3 18s.

Appendicitis, The Seven Anomalies. By J. A. KERR. Pp. 177, illustrated. London: Butterworths, 1970. £2 16s.

Non-communicating Children. By LOUIS MINSKI and MARGARET J. SHEPPERD. Pp. 188, illustrated. London: Butterworths, 1970. £1 10s.

New Editions

The Nature of Childhood Autism. By GERALD O'GORMAN. Second edition. Pp. 163, illustrated. London: Butterworths. £2 18s.

Current Medical Treatment. Edited by C. W. H. HAVARD. Third edition. Pp. 882. London: Staples Press. £4.25s.

Book reviews

Systemic Effects of Skin Disease

By SAM SHUSTER and JANET MARKS. Pp. 137, illustrated. London: William Heinemann, 1970. £2.

This monograph emphasizes that skin disease has important systemic consequences and that the metabolic cost of skin cannot be ignored. It is based on work almost exclusively by the authors which appeared as papers over a period over the last few years in various journals. The most important aspect of this work is the question of malabsorption and skin disease and this association is perhaps most convincing in a large proportion of patients with dermatitis herpetiformis. Dermatogenic enteropathy has been invoked to explain various abnormalities of absorption in eczema and psoriasis, especially when these are extensive as in erythroderma. The degree of steatorrhoea is related to the extent of the rash. Haemodynamic abnormalities associated with skin disease, thermoregulation, protein metabolism, hyperoestrogenism and some other systemic effects of skin disease are briefly but intelligently dealt with.

Originality and a novel approach are invariably heavily criticized by the medical establishment and this work has received a great deal of criticism. Many of the findings are doubted by some and completely disbelieved by others. No doubt the authors have faced up bravely to the critics and have retracted some of their earlier findings when convincing evidence to the contrary was produced. The authors deserve much more enthusiasm and appreciation for their stimulating and novel approach to skin disease and for their main conclusion that, in spite of their evidence of associated systemic involvement, the bulk of skin diseases are confined to the skin and produce no systemic manifestations. My only regret is that this little book has confined itself to dealing with the personal research interests of the authors and that they failed to take this golden opportunity of producing an up-to-date complete book of systemic associations and skin disease—a need both urgent and overdue.

Otolaryngology (Medical Outline Series)

By STANLEY N. FARB. Pp. 360, illustrated. London: H. K. Lewis, 1970. £3 15s.

This book is written for Medical Students, Resident Medical Officers and General Practitioners who treat patients with diseases of the ear, nose and throat.

It is presented in a rather unattractive loose-leaf plastic binding, which is, however, undoubtedly useful in allowing the pages to lie open on the table and, of course, allowing additional pages to be added or substituted when necessary.

The whole field of otolaryngology is admirably covered without the reader being confused by details of very specialized operations. References are listed at the end of each chapter for more detailed description of these operations. The section on audiometry would be particularly helpful to General Practitioners receiving reports from Otologists. All sections have very helpful tables of symptoms and physical signs to assist in differential diagnosis. The section on diseases of the inner ear is a particularly clear exposition of a difficult subject. The description of abnormalities of the nose and para-nasal sinuses is well illustrated by clear diagrams and X-ray plates.

One minor criticism of the text is that the condition now known as 'glue ear', so frequently seen in children, is not well described although the section on 'serous otitis media' does describe the treatment of this condition.

The whole field of ear, nose and throat diseases is covered including chapters on disorders of the salivary glands, and broncho-oesophagology. The final chapter on the medications used in otolaryngology is full and well arranged.

There is a comprehensive index and blank pages are included for notes. This book admirably fulfils the objective stated in the preface, and it would be a useful addition to the libraries of all Medical Students, House Officers and General Practitioners.