Peripheral Arterial Disease, a Physician's Approach

By ROBERT L. RICHARDS. Pp. 126, illustrated. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1970. £2 10s.

As the author states in his preface there has been no worthy successor to Sir Thomas Lewis's 'Vascular Disorders of the Limbs', first published in 1936. The lack of such a work has long been apparent to physicians, and has now been remedied in a really masterly manner.

This short book commences with the history of the subject, anatomy and physiology of the normal peripheral circulation, before proceeding to the classification of arterial disease. Each section is presented clearly and concisely, with excellent illustrations. Subsequent chapters deal with symptoms, signs and special investigations; and then with specific syndromes including claudication, acute and chronic ischaemia, and Raynaud's syndrome. Aetiology, medical and surgical therapy are discussed most adequately and like the whole work are presented in a refreshingly clear fashion. For those who wish to pursue in greater depth, a fourteen page bibliography provides ample coverage of the literature.

At a time when a deluge of new books is upon us, it is a delight to find one filling so obvious a gap with such an excellent presentation. I am sure that this slim volume should be on the shelves of all interested physicians and vascular surgeons.

Electrophysiology of Pacing and Cardioversion

By AUGUSTIN CASTELLANOS and LOUIS LEMBERG. Pp. 250, illustrated. London: Butterworths; New York: Appleton-Century Crofts, 1969. £5.

This is a highly specialized book that will be of most interest to specialists in Electrocardiography, especially those interested in dysrhythmias, and those responsible for a considerable amount of defibrillation, pacemaker insertion and supervision. For those with fewer demands of this nature, Siddon's and Sowton's 'Cardiac Pacemakers' provides all the necessary information on the pacing aspect. The present book should also be read by Electrophysiologists as the authors have taken advantage of pacemaker induced ECG patterns to study this subject in some depth, including observations on excitability, automaticity and conduction times.

Each chapter is followed by an excellent selection of ECGs illustrating the text and these are in turn accompanied by detailed interpretation. The selection of 'Iatrogenic arrhythmias' is particularly comprehensive.

Although destined to this rather specialized audience this work can be thoroughly recommended to those concerned.

Preventive Medicine in Medical Care

By KURT SCHWARZ. Pp. x + 216. London: H. K. Lewis, 1970. £2 10s.

Preventive medicine does not receive the attention it deserves in what is euphemistically called the National Health Service and tends to be somewhat neglected in the overcrowded curriculum of the medical schools. This book attempts to cover the practice of preventive medicine in its broadest context and seeks to offer perspectives in priorities for medical planning, for the promotion of community health and for the prevention and control of specific disorders.

The clinical features described are too brief to be helpful and contain some statements which are inaccurate e.g. In 60% of cases of measles Koplik spots 'accompany or even follow the onset of the main rash', and others which are somewhat misleading and one can only assume that the author is not practising clinical medicine. Attention is given to primary prevention which assumes some importance in the non-infectious diseases but in the context of infectious

diseases is of more theoretical than practical value. Each chapter follows a uniform arrangement and considers the interesting problem of presymptomatic diagnosis. This, together with epidemiology, secondary prevention and public health aspects, constitutes the more valuable sections of the book.

This is an ambitious book and the concept is admirable but in attempting so much within the confines of a few pages one regrets to say that it fails to achieve its objective. The author states that the book is intended for senior undergraduate students as well as postgraduates but the former, without prior knowledge of the subject, would be unable to sift out the wheat from the chaff. Inevitably also the subject matter is not considered in sufficient depth for the postgraduate although helpful in encouraging a different approach to present-day problems in medicine.

Manual of Clinical Microbiology

Edited by J. E. BLAIR, E. H. LENNETTE and J. P. TRUANT. Pp. 727, illustrated. Baltimore, Maryland: Williams and Wilkins; Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1970. £3 5s.

It is very difficult to produce a book which, at one and the same time, is easily readable, informative to the non-technical reader seeking guidance on the interpretation of results and fully instructive to the technician performing bacteriological and serological tests. In the reviewer's opinion, this has been achieved in this book. The work contains seventy-six chapters written by sixty-five authors each of whom is clearly an authority in his subject both theoretically and technically. The authors do not disguise the fact that problems of identification of organisms or interpretation of results occur frequently. They indicate clearly what further tests are and are not practical in a routine laboratory.

The book includes sections or chapters dealing very adequately with all bacteriological and serological procedures and includes the identification of parasites, the identification of viruses and rickettsiae, bacteria phage typing, environmental control in hospitals and food poisoning.

The reader requiring further information is provided with copious references which the reviewer was pleased to see included the title of the paper. The formula for *all* reagents mentioned, including buffers, is given in the text or in the final section on 'Media and Reagents'. This is a great convenience.

This book deserves to be very popular but it is to be hoped that the spelling of 'diphtheriae' (sic) on page 90 lines 23 and 41 and of 'diphtheroids' (sic) on page 96 line 46 will be corrected in the next edition.

Textbook of Contraceptive Practice

By JOHN PEEL and MALCOLM POTTS. Pp. 296, illustrated. London: Cambridge University Press, 1969. £2 10. 18s (Paperback).

Although the first contraceptive clinic in Britain was opened close on 50 years ago, contraception has only recently become 'respectable' national policy and the opening of new Family Planning Association headquarters accorded royal patronage. And similarly since the teaching of contraceptive techniques was not an integral part of the curriculum, textbooks on the subject have been lacking. This book fills a gap and is suitable both for undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Unlike many textbooks, however, it is eminently readable and the intelligent layman would find many sections, and especially the historical aspects, of interest. The different contraceptive methods are clearly described and criteria for their