MEDICAL TREATMENT—Principles and Their Application. Edited by Geoffrey Evans, M.D., F.R.C.P., Consulting Physician, St. Bartholomew's Hospital. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1951. 1398 pages of text and 66 pages of index. $20.00.

This book covers treatment in general practice. The classification is alphabetical, both for the subjects and within the framework of each subject heading. There are a number of disadvantages to this type of classification: these include the separation of related diseases and difficulty in finding subjects or remedies in cross-reference.

The presentation of general principles to serve as a guide to practitioners in their choice of treatment is emphasized and is admirable. There are, however, an omission of detail and too little of the scientific approach—two major criticisms of the book.

The antibiotics are subjected to more modern treatment than the reviewer has seen in most British texts. He cannot let pass, however, such statements as (page 32) "At present penicillin must be injected and precautions against sepsis are necessary. Outside hospitals, therefore, and also for reasons of economy, sulphonamides should be preferred when they are likely to be effective."

In the whole field of bone disease (page 128) only two subjects are considered; osteoporosis of the spine and Paget's disease. A total of five pages is given to these, less than half of which is devoted to treatment (and this is inadequate). If one turns through half the book to page 609, one will find some further discussion under the heading of parathyroid disease.

Despite its limited information, this is a practical, common-sense book which is generally up-to-date with regard to clinical practice. It may be compared to such American volumes as "Practical Therapeutics" by Rehfuss and Price and "Current Therapy" by Conn. It offers less than these volumes, however, and falls short of them in completeness and detail. To the American practitioner it can serve, therefore, only as an additional reference.

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A HISTORY OF NURSING. By Gladys Sellew, Ph.D., R.N., Chairman of Department of Sociology and Social Work, Rosary College, River Forest, Illinois; and C. J. Nuesse, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Sociology, The Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C. Second Edition. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1951. 437 pages. $3.75.

This book will be helpful to student nurses in appreciating that nursing services are closely related to all branches of human culture.

Beginning with care of the sick among primitive people and continuing through World War II, the authors show the interrelatedness of social, economic, religious and scientific advances upon nursing.

The evolution and expansion of professional nursing around the world is developed with special emphasis upon the forces that have influenced professional nursing in the United States. Graduate nurses will also find this book inspiring and most useful as a reference. It is an excellent text for the nursing instructor.

The revised edition includes much new material, especially the chapters dealing with contemporary American problems in nursing, and includes nursing trends outside the United States.

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THE SPECIALTIES IN GENERAL PRACTICE. Edited by Russell L. Cecil, M.D., Professor of Clinical Medicine, Emeritus, Cornell University Medical College, New York. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1951. 818 pages. $14.50.

This book could be useful to many general practitioners, younger surgeons, internists and others who have had their training in the cloistered halls of the hospital and are thoroughly familiar with sickle-cell anemia but not with dermatitis from cosmetics, or who are familiar with all the aspects of an acute bowel obstruction but are unfamiliar with warts around the fingernails. The book is well illustrated. Some of the illustrations are new although many of them are repeated from former publications. I suppose an illustration is just as good if we have seen it before but it gets tiresome seeing your old friends turn up again like this. The book is well indexed.

This volume attempts to present the diagnostic criteria and the most accepted form of therapy in the minor and common ailments in a series of special fields. The sections are not of equal value. Unquestionably the best section in the book is the one on psychiatry. It also appears to be the only one that was written specifically for this volume and is not only worth the reading but is interesting. The section on pediatrics is quite unsatisfactory. It is primarily a discussion of feeding and immunizing the normal infant with a few pages on the age of election for operations. The two sections on orthopedic surgery and fractures and dislocations seem to be quite satisfactory and much superior to a recent volume on office and minor orthopedics. Even in these sections much valuable material has been left out—only one method of treating a fracture of the clavicle is described which the reviewer's personal experience would indicate is far from applicable in all cases. The section on diseases of the anus, rectum and colon is quite satisfactory, whereas the sections on gynecology and obstetrics seem to be quite routine. The three sections on ophthalmology, diseases of the nose and throat, and diseases of the larynx, bronchi and esophagus are satisfactory for the brevity required of them but the descriptions of such procedures as tonsillectomy seem neither sufficient to instruct one unfamiliar with the procedure nor adequate to refresh the memory of one who had become rusty. The reviewer wonders whether the section on surgery had been brought up to date. The author suggests that surgical excision of warts is a satisfactory procedure, whereas most schools and texts are teaching other methods. Also, this section recommends that animal and human bites be treated by fuming nitric acid, a procedure certainly not in accordance with current teaching. The section on urology is satisfactory except that the charts of symptoms, abnormalities and diseases seems rather unclear and would be more satisfactory with more explanation.

For the physician who wants to invest in only a single volume this book would probably be more satisfactory than any other volume of this nature that has come to the reviewer's attention. However, most physicians would be dissatisfied with the brevity and probably most would prefer a textbook on each of the fields covered.

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INCONTINENCE IN OLD PEOPLE. By John C. Brocklehurst, M.D., Major R.A.M.C., formerly Christine Hansen Research Fellow in the University of Glasgow. E. & S. Livingstone, Ltd., 16 & 17 Teviot Place, Edinburgh, 1951. 191 pages. $6.50. (Distributed by Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore.)

This monograph from Scotland, which reviews but does not significantly add to or interpret the previous work on bladder physiology and dysfunction, can be recommended for perusal by urologists but is of less value to the general physician. Most of the conclusions regarding treatment are negative, in spite of various experiments on small groups of incontinent senile patients which showed that the main predisposing factor was a lesion of the central nervous system from senile degeneration or specific organic disease which caused an uninhibited neurogenic bladder. In the conclusion, the author offers a molded bed as his contribution to the care of the aged incontinent patient.