

SCREENING FOR HEALTH

*Screening for Health.* Theory and Practice. By H. P. Ferrer, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.), D.P.H. Pp. xi + 212. R5.50. London and Durban: Butterworths. 1968.

The outstanding success of the sanitarians of the late 19th and early 20th centuries in the control of infectious diseases is now a matter of medical history. The modern discipline of preventive medicine has broadened its horizon and has turned its attention to such diseases as diabetes, anaemia, cancer of the cervix or breast, hypertension and rheumatic heart disease.

The screening test has become an indispensable measure in preventive medicine. Its results, at the broad community level, indicate the need or otherwise for specific preventive services. At the individual level, it may—as in the case of the Papanicolaou smear—furnish a presymptomatic diagnosis which makes early and effective treatment possible.

*Screening for Health* deals clearly and in detail with the theory and the organization of modern screening tests, and should be of great interest to all interested in the promotion of health at community level.

F.K.M.

DOCTOR/PATIENT RELATIONSHIP

*The Patient's Progress.* Ed. by F. Marti-Ibanez, M.D. Pp. 148. \$5.95. New York: MD Publications. 1967.

This book consists of 5 sections, each part being introduced with an essay by Dr Felix Marti-Ibanez, former Professor and Chairman of the Department of the History of Medicine of New York Medical School. It is a valuable addition to some 30 books written or edited by Dr Marti-Ibanez. It is a fascinating account of that most significant personal relationship between the patient and his physician, discussed against a background of the history of medicine from pre-historic to modern times and the medical and scientific developments of each age. At the same time consideration is given to the socio-economic, artistic and religious aspects of each epoch.

*The Patient's Progress* is a valuable contribution to the literature and should appeal greatly to those who would like to read a thought-provoking and stimulating book.

C.A.

PRECISION IN SURGERY

*Measurement and Precision in Surgery.* Ed. by Sir H. Atkins, K.B.E., D.M., M.Ch. Pp. x + 248. Illustrated. £2.10.0. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1969.

This timely book discusses the use of devices and techniques such as transducers, electronic pressure-measuring devices, apparatus for measurement of blood flow, temperature, thermography, haemodialysis, ultrasound and others. An excellent chapter on controlled clinical trials should be studied by all clinical research workers, and a chapter for anaesthetists describes all measurements possible during anaesthesia for major operations.

A fascinating chapter on the potentialities of computers in surgery should be read by all heads of departments and superintendents of large hospitals, while 4 excellent and detailed chapters are devoted to measurements in cardiovascular therapy, such as blood flow and oxygenation, measurements in cardiac surgery (by Melrose) and measurements in carotid artery obstruction.

C.A.R.S.

MALABSORPTION SYNDROMES

*Malabsorption Syndromes.* By W. W. Shingleton, M.D. and W. O. Dobbins, M.D. Pp. xiii + 165. Illustrated. \$7.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1968.

This book contains brief, up-to-date descriptions of the anatomy and physiology of the digestive tract and of the mechanisms involved in the absorption of the various nutrients; current information on the detection of malabsorption; and a comprehensive, yet concisely written, survey of the diagnosis, treatment and biochemical abnormalities of all known forms of malabsorption, including syndromes due to surgical intervention and to maladies not often associated with the gastrointestinal tract, e.g. dermatological disorders (p. 113). There is a carefully selected list of key references.

Apart from minor grammatical weaknesses the book complies with the high standard set in previous publications in this series, and it should prove invaluable to gastro-enterologists.

J.J.D.