

Book Reviews

AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SAMPLE SURVEY OF THE HIGHLAND, MAINLAND AND ISLAND REGIONS OF THE TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA, by A.P. Vines 1970, pp 621, Govt. Printer, Port Moresby.

THIS MOST COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY provides many basic medical statistics on the people of New Guinea. The text is divided into 24 chapters. The first seven provide background information on health services, attitudes to health and disease, and a quantitative analysis of housing, sanitation, etc. The remaining chapters deal with statistics on a wide variety of clinical data and laboratory measurements. Each chapter has a bibliography. There are several hundred tables, covering almost every aspect of health from alcoholic habits through various diseases, cardiovascular measurements, lactation and liver size, and left-handedness, to urine analysis. There is an appendix of more than 100 pages which describes the methods used.

It is both interesting and enlightening that this survey, which deals with health in one of the most under-developed countries in the world, is one of the most comprehensive surveys of its kind and used modern techniques of computer analysis.

This report is of great value in that it indicates the public health problems of the country and provides a great deal of basic data against which future changes can be measured. Twenty years ago, most of the people of New Guinea lived in a Stone Age culture; today, they are approaching independence. Great changes are occurring within a very short time. This survey will enable future workers to measure some of the changes in human health which occur as man changes from Stone Age living to a suburban materialistic existence. An understanding of some of these changes may be basic to the future health of mankind.

This report is essential reading for all those interested in epidemiology and tropical medicine.

W.H. Ewers

CONCISE ANTIBIOTIC TREATMENT by W.H. Hughes and H.C. Stewart 1970, pp 133 Butterworths, Lond. £1.00

THIS COMPACT PUBLICATION embodies the experience gained at St. Mary's Hospital, London, on this important subject and will serve as a ready reference book in an emergency for a busy practising doctor. It gives guidance on the drug and dosage most likely to be useful in the early stage of an infection before advice on the organism present and its sensitivity can be obtained. The relative toxicity of the drugs and the cost of treatment have been kept in mind. In addition to information on individual drugs and tables for quick reference to preparations, doses and routes of administration, there are short discussions on particular problems of dosage. This volume will also be useful for quick revision by the medical student preparing for his examinations.

EPIDEMIOLOGY OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Ed. by E.D. Acheson — *British Medical Bull.* Vol. 27. No. 1 January 1971. Published by Medical Dept. The British Med. Council, Lond. £2.00

THE FIFTEEN CONTRIBUTIONS, prepared by distinguished British specialists, cover a wide field in epidemiology, social, industrial and clinical medicine and medical statistics and will be of interest to all those engaged in community health programmes. Professor E.D. Acheson, the scientific editor, in his introduction calls attention to the changing meaning of the word "epidemiology" through the years, and shows how the implications of epidemiology techniques, assisted by modern statistical and computational methods and screening procedures, have become more pervasive.

ESSENTIALS OF MODERN MEDICAL TREATMENT by Vincent Norman. Revised Edn. 1970. pp. 168 H.K. Lewis & Co. Lond. £2 net.

THIS HANDY VOLUME is directed towards the general medical practitioner who is too busy to read through long detailed descriptions but requires an up-to-date account of the essentials of the medical treatment of common ailments. Prescriptions are included, giving doses and routes of administration of the drugs. There is an index.