In a brief preface the author expresses the hope that the publication of this book may help to reduce the incidence of poisoning by those compounds which he discusses. To achieve this it would have been much improved if in each case he could have included a few lines of practical advice to the non-medical reader who might turn to the book to find out whether or not he should handle a particular compound with special care. For a book with such an aim the reader may perhaps be surprised to find that the largest section (42 pages) is devoted to D.D.T. which has never been regarded as presenting any serious industrial or user hazard, while a notorious poison like methyl bromide has only 14 pages. The next largest review is that on carbon tetrachloride, but this probably in part reflects the apparent fascination this compound holds for experimental pathologists studying liver damage.

This is essentially a reference book in which brief summaries of published work are strung together with little or no attempt to discuss the significance or importance of the observations in respect of the one to the other. This makes reading difficult. The difficulty is exacerbated by the repeated use of the same openings for paragraph after paragraph. The book lacks any imprint of the author's own views on the subjects he discusses so that it is difficult to believe that it will, as he hopes, "stimulate research on the many problems unanswered". No problems are defined and the reader is left to seek for himself the gaps in existing information, the filling of which would make a significant advance in knowledge. The few attempts made to discuss the comparative toxicity of some of the series of compounds described are little more than summaries of what has already been stated.

There are a great many minor spelling mistakes but none so striking as the rendering of trichloroacetic acid on pp. 209-210. The heading in the middle of page 203 is incorrect. The text in many places could have been condensed to table form where compounds about which little or nothing is known are described.

Despite the criticisms made above there is no doubt that this will remain an invaluable reference book. The author is to be thanked for the thoroughness with which he has compiled this book which is available at the very reasonable cost of \$2.50.

J. M. BARNES

Backache in Women. By E. Schleyer-Saunders. (Pp. 80; 6 figures. 7s. 6d.) Bristol: John Wright. 1955.

Much has been written in the medical press on the subject of backache in women—a complaint which many sufferers have accepted as an inevitable accompaniment of childbearing and the menopause, or, of later years, have been pleased to be labelled as another case of "slipped disc". This little book presents a classification of the causes of backache with their differential diagnosis, and suggests methods of prevention and treatment, though no great advance is claimed in the latter. Gynaecological, orthopaedic, and rheumatic groups are considered, and it is stated that 50% of all cases show some gynaecological pathology. Emphasis is laid on static

and postural faults as a causative factor in all groups whatever the underlying pathology and some useful and simple diagnostic procedures are described.

The book is clearly presented and easily readable and will be of particular interest to general practitioners. It will have little appeal to the industrial medical officer though it may serve once again to draw his attention to postural defects and strain, which frequently arise from inadequate seating accommodation at work, incorrect siting of machines and their operators, and inefficient methods of lifting and handling heavy packages.

A. LLOYD POTTER

BOOKS RECEIVED

(Review in a later issue is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.)

The Invasive Adenomas of the Anterior Pituitary (Sherrington Lecture No. III). By Sir Geoffrey Jefferson. (Pp. 63; 24 figures. 5s.) The University Press of Liverpool. 1955.

Baillière's Handbook of First Aid and Bandaging, 4th ed. By A. D. Belibios, D. K. Mulvaney, and K. F. Armstrong. (Pp. xii + 464; 200 figures. 8s. 6d.) London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1955.

Vitamins in Theory and Practice. By L. J. Harris. (Pp. xxii + 366; 103 figures. 35s.) London: Cambridge University Press. 1955.

The National Corporation for the Care of Old People. Seventh Annual Report for the Year Ended 30th September, 1954. (Pp. 40). London: Nuffield Lodge. 1955.

Klinische Electropathologie. Part I by S. Koeppen; Part II by F. Panse. (Pp. xii + 424; illustrated.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1955.

Report on the Health of the Royal Air Force and Women's Royal Air Force for the Year 1951. London: Air Publications and Forms Store.

Wiederherstellung der Lebenstüchtigkeit geschädigter Menschen. By H. Hoske. (Pp. xii + 217. DM. 16.-.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1955.

Central Mining—Rand Mines Group: Health Department. Report for the Year 1954. Johannesburg: Dr. A. J. Orenstein, Rand Mines Ltd. 1955.

Clinical Orthopaedics, Number Five. Edited by Anthony F. DePalma. (Pp. viii + 242; illustrated. Subscribers 40s. per copy; single copies 60s.) London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. 1955.

Student Almoner. By Josephine Kamm. (Pp. 192. 7s. 6d.) London: Bodley Head. 1955.

Textbook of Occupational Therapy. By Eamon N. M. O'Sullivan. (Pp. x + 320. 21s.) London: H. K. Lewis. 1955.

Why Have Pain. By Molly Turner. (Pp. iii + 23; illustrated. 2s.) Shrewsbury: Wilding & Son. 1955.

Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Nutrition. Fourth Report. (Pp. 58. 3s. 6d.) London: H.M. Stationery Office. 1955.

Wiederbelebung. By H. Killian and A. Dönhardt. (Pp. viii + 321; 93 figures. DM. 24.-.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1955.