the review. For some compounds national tolerances are given, followed by tolerances recommended by joint meetings of F.A.O. and W.H.O. Suggestions about work required in future are included in each review. Terms used in this publication were agreed by a joint meeting of F.A.O. and W.H.O. and are defined and explained in the glossary.

ELSA REINER


This report was published after a meeting of the F.A.O. Working Party and W.H.O. Expert Committee, which took place in Rome in December 1967 to discuss pesticide residues.

The report considers methods of estimating tolerances and of sampling for estimating pesticide residues, and it discusses the significance of the interaction of residues, and the difficulties in total diet studies. Several recommendations were made. More studies should be carried out on the toxicity of organochlorine compounds, as some of the compounds persist in the animal and human body, and show effects on the liver at low doses. Some organochlorine compounds produce hepatomas in laboratory animals, and the relevance for man of these findings should be discussed. Recent work on the chronic toxicity of DDT in mice should be evaluated, and any future work considered necessary should be given high priority. Finally it was concluded that more information is needed on patterns of food consumption and about sampling in total diet studies.

The appendices of the report, which make up about half its length, contain recommended values for maximum acceptable daily intakes, tolerances, temporary tolerances, and practical residue limits for 29 insecticides in raw agricultural products. The verbal definitions adopted by the meeting for use in this report are explained in detail. A list is also given of the more recent publications (1965 to 1967) by F.A.O. and W.H.O. on specific compounds.

ELSA REINER


For anyone contemplating a career in general practice this book gives an excellent account of what can be achieved. Dr. McGregor records every encounter with his patients over a period of 12 years in his neatly contained practice, part rural, part town, within 50 miles of Edinburgh. His system of recording, which was also carried out by his assistants and locums, enables him to reproduce the work loads, morbidity, and progress of his patients over this time.

Any family doctor is in a unique position to achieve this continuity which is perhaps the trump card which this branch of the medical profession can produce over the remainder. He tends the day-to-day care of the hopeless cases of inoperable carcinomas which survive for many more months than predicted by the operating surgeons. He is also that much nearer to the tragedies of growing old when family relatives grow callous and demand the dependent’s removal to the Infirmary. The point is made that the recuperative powers of the aged but mentally alert are equal to that of a much younger person.

From his records he confirms many long-held theories - that town dwellers of all age groups have twice the incidence of bronchitis when compared with the rural dweller but are less frequently involved with degenerative arterial changes. His records show the decline of pertussis, rheumatic fever, and diphtheria, etc., and the growth of allergies, cancer, and arterial disease.

The range of disease this book deals with is comprehensive and is always spiced with common sense. He accepts as normal the fact that symptoms of a disease are often better the moment the family doctor has been summoned by the responsibility being shared. Those labelled as anxiety states and who frequently attend the surgery rarely lose much time from work and are consequently valued members of the community.

Preventive medicine as applied to general practice includes many novel aspects together with the expected immunization programmes.

This book should encourage those who feel they would like to have a planned approach to medical practice and should be well received by all interested in this subject.

P. M. O. MASSEY


For anyone interested in using family practice as a means of epidemiological study, with the added satisfaction that small, simple but constant flow of recorded observations can give much useful information to the general medical picture, this book is invaluable: for instance, the marked vulnerability of females, of all ages, to urinary infection; the persistence of acute bronchitis in males which throughout life is one third more than females of comparable age; the relative freedom of the male from hypochromic anaemia; and the marked amount of conjunctivitis and blepharitis in children under five.

This book gives a general idea on how to write up any medical subject which interests the practitioner. It gives a method of recording disease by numbered classification conceived by the Royal College of General Practitioners and a number of useful practical suggestions to maintain records whilst visiting patients in their homes.

A particularly useful section was the chapter on how to use a medical library and the help the Librarian can give in tackling any subject. Expert advice on the selection and guidance is offered by the College. A section on elementary statistics and their significance is conspicuously absent in a book of this type but perhaps it was omitted to preserve the interest of the doctor who has always reserved research for others or energetic registrars.

Family practitioners must, nevertheless, regard this