

FROM OUR BOOK SHELF

CLINICAL DERMATOLOGY by John T Ingram M. D., F. R. C. P. Emeritus Professor of Dermatology, The University of Newcastle upon Tyne, First Edition 1969 is dedicated by him to His Pupils and Patients. It is published by M/s J. & A. Churchill Ltd. London and printed in Gt. Britain by T & A Consable Ltd. Edinburg. Price in U. K. only 45sh. £2. 25 Decimal currency. The volume consists of 194 pages of good print on glazed paper contained in a hard bind with a paper cover having the 'Indian Oak-leaf butterfly' illustration on it to depict not only the beauty of the skin the 'living garment' that clothes all animate things, but its powers of communication and adaptation, so relevant to effective personal and social life, apart from the intricate and fascinating physiological functions of the skin.

This product is the result of 40 years of clinical and teaching experience and is practical. As is desired by the author, it expresses the essential simplicity of dermatology and its value to the clinician by its display of the physiology and pathology of disease in general. It contains a right approach to treatment of both patient and disease in summary form.

As stated on the cover itself it is 'an Individual Approach'. This is testified by the chapter styled 'Nursing and the Laying on of hands' wherein the author stresses that 'if there is interest, harmony and understanding the mere contact of the nurses' fingers with a patient's skin communicates a confidence and acceptance which excludes any 'leper' thoughts on the part of either patient or nurse and this is half the battle towards recovery'. Here he narrates how he did away with instruments and gloves in the examination of patient. This is an idea so rarely included in text-books or impressed upon by teachers. It immediately goes home to the reader, the love and interest the author must have had in his patients and in dermatology.

There are 2 colour plates and 113 text figures. Starting with a preface, he ends with a Bibliography of 13 texts and Index of 8 pages. There are 20 chapters, 17 of which are divided into 2 para. under headings 'Organic-Diseases' and 'Functional Disorders'.

In an epitomised form, the author has handled relevant aspect of various skin conditions as may be required by a clinician or student.

Mrs. J. N. F. Mathias
