

Book Reviews

NUTRITION IN PREVENTIVE MEDICINE, by G. H. Beaton and J. M. Bengoa, Geneva, 1976 (World Health Organisation: Monograph Series, Np. 62), ISBN 92 4 140062 5, 590 pages. Price: Sw. fr. 83. Available through WHO Representative, Malaysia, Room 1004, Fitzpatrick Building, Jalan Raja Chulan, Kuala Lumpur.

In spite of all efforts to eliminate the causes, malnutrition remains a grave problem throughout the world, particularly in the developing countries. Making sufficient food available is not, as might be supposed, the only difficulty since there are many important contributory factors including ignorance about the nutritive values of foods and poor family budgeting. The significance of malnutrition in relation to health, social progress, and economic development is now clearly recognised, and the World Health Organisation, in common with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, the United Nations Children's Fund, various international aid organisations, and national governments, regards the conquest of malnutrition as a top priority. WHO's concern is mainly with malnutrition as a predisposing factor in a wide range of diseases; in particular, the high childhood mortality rates for infections such as measles in developing countries are closely linked with the poor nutritional status of the child population.

Up to the present there has been no comprehensive treatment of malnutrition and preventive medicine, and this is a major contribution to the fight against this scourge. It will serve as a field guide for health workers, a work of reference for planners, and a teaching resource for schools of medicine, public health, nursing, and allied fields.

DIAGNOSTIC ULTRASONICS: Principles and Use of Instruments. Granads Publishing Ltd., Lond. pp. 320 £15.00 net.

The book explains the use of ultrasonic scanning machines and gives guidance in overcoming all the problems which might arise. It helps in a proper understanding of how results are produced as well as giving practical information on such things as manipulating controls, maladjustment of sensitivity controls, the special features of machines at present available, and advanced techniques of usage.

The routine use of diagnostic ultrasonic instruments in hospitals is increasing rapidly at present. All doctors who use diagnostic ultrasonics will find this an invaluable manual to have with them always.