Short Reviews

The Interface Study. D L Crombie, J van der Zee, P Backer. (Pp 67; £7.50.) Royal College of General Practitioners: Occasional Paper No 48, London, 1990. ISBN 0-85084-153-4.

The Interface Study was undertaken by the EC Concerted Action Committee on Health Service Research in collaboration with the European General Practice Research Workshop. Designed to explore the interface between primary care and secondary care, the study analyses the relationship between general practitioners and specialists and summarises the proceedings of a conference held in Copenhagen which discussed both the Interface Study and a related study known as the Sentinel Practice Study. It provides an overview of health care systems in Europe and the functions and tasks of general practitioners within these countries.

Survey Methods in Community Medicine, 4th ed. J H Abramson. (Pp 352; £11.95.) Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1990. ISBN 0-443-04196-2.

Since first published in 1974, this book has improved with each edition. It provides a simple and systematic guide to the planning and performance of studies concerned with health in the community. In this new edition the text notes and references have been thoroughly revised. Chapters on clinical trials and programme trials have been added, and due attention is now paid to the use of computers. It remains a useful text for students of public health and for those embarking on research.

Health in the Inner City. Ed Alison E While. (Pp 179; £12.50.) Heinemann Medical Books, London, 1989. ISBN 0-443-00152-6.

Inner city problems and the particular needs of those who live in inner cities are widely

acknowledged. Reviewing the special requirements of different groups such as small children, the elderly and their carers, strategies and innovations are suggested to meet these needs. Although the book has been written principally for nurses and doctors working in urban and inner city areas, it may be of interest to public health medicine specialists and social workers concerned with this aspect of health.

The Social Impact of Asthma. A Nocon, T Booth. (Pp 81; £6.) Joint Unit for Social Services Research, University of Sheffield, 1990. ISBN 0-907484-14-X.

This short monograph presents results of a research study into the social impact of asthma. It examines the effects of asthma on sufferers' and carers' everyday activities, their social and leisure pursuits, work and schooling, emotional wellbeing and personal relationships. Recommendations arising from the report include the need for improved communication between doctors and patients, better counselling services, and a greater awareness, both among professional workers and in the public at large, about the impact of this disease.

International Current Awareness Services (ICAS). Sociology and related disciplines. Ed C J Hunt. (Pp 111; £150 for 12 monthly issues.) British Library of Political and Economic Science—Routledge, vol 1 Number 1, 1990. ISSN 0960-1546.

ICAS is a new bibliographic service providing rapid international coverage of the world's social science literature. Published monthly, the contents of important journals in the sociological field are listed. Monographs are also summarised and there are detailed subject and place name indices. In addition to sociology, a separate bibliographic service is available in anthropology, political science and economics.

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NOTICES

The XIII International Colloquium on Safety and Health throughout the Planning and Construction Process will take place in Brussels on September 16-18, 1991. Further details from ANPAT, rue Gachard 88 Bte 4, 1050 Brussels, Belgium; tel 32 2 648 0337, Fax 32 2 648 6867.

The Ninth International Symposium on Atherosclerosis, which was to have taken place in Jerusalem, has been relocated to Chicago (Hyatt Regency O'Hare-Rosemont); date October 6-11, 1991; further details: Professor Y Stein, PO box 50006, Tel Aviv 61500, Israel; tel 972 3 654571, Fax 972 3 655674.

1991 Pfizer International Research Symposium: Epidemiology of Peripheral Vascular Disease. This symposium will take place in Edinburgh on October 31 and November 1, 1991. Topics include: measurement in communities; descriptive epidemiology; vascular risk factors; social and lifestyle factors; genetics and haemostasis; natural history and prevention. Organiser: Dr F G R Fowkes; details from: Clare Perry, Edinburgh Postgraduate Board for Medicine, Pfizer Foundation, 11 Hill Square, Edinburgh EH8 9DN, United Kingdom; tel 031 650 2610.

Third European Health Services Research Meeting. This will take place at University College, London, on December 13-14, 1991. The organisation is in cooperation with NIVEL (Netherlands Institute of Primary Health Care) and the Society for Social Medicine (UK). For further details contact Rosemary McMahon, Professional Briefings, 120 Wilton Road, London SW1V 1JZ, United Kingdom; tel 071 233 8322, Fax 071 233 7779.