Book Review

*The Multiple Choice Question in Medicine* by John Anderson. Pitman Medical 1976. Price £3.00.

This excellent little book is full of practical advice to those who have to respond to multiple choice questions as well as to those whose responsibility it is to construct them. It confirms the aphorism that 'it is only those who really know what they are talking about who can afford to use words that everyone understands', and the reader is in no danger of being overcome by the fumes of psychometric jargon. The importance of feedback and revision of questions after computer analysis is properly stressed and illustrated by examples, but the needs of those committed to hand-scoring are not overlooked.

It provides a fitting tribute to the pioneering work of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Newcastle, where the author is currently Academic Sub-Dean, and a generous acknowledgement is made to the activities of the Joint Examining Board of the three Royal Colleges of Physicians, at which so many enjoyable educational experiences have been shared.

Quite apart from the inherent worth of the text, the inclusion, in the second half of the book, of 150 specimen questions for self-assessment purposes will ensure a wide sale.

J. F. S.

*Integrated Medicine: the Human Approach*. Ed. H. Maxwell. John Wright and Sons, 1976. Price £5.

The underlying message in this book is in the title — the message of a holistic approach by doctors to medicine, treating the entire person and not just his condition. Because this message is so vital to the entire profession I feel it should be read by medical teachers and by practicing doctors — however, this approach does leave any reviewer with the problem of what will be the typical readership.

The editor, Harold Maxwell, is a psychiatrist, and the introduction is also provided by a psychiatrist, John C. Nemiah, but other chapters are written by a professor of therapeutics, two general practitioners, a consultant surgeon, a physician, a paediatrician, an obstetrician, a psycho-analyst, a psychotherapist and another psychiatrist.

A concise book — it is only 160 pages long — it is particularly well written. It