Handbook of Pediatrics. 6th edition. By HENRY K. SILVER, C. HENRY KEMPE, and HENRY B. BRUYN. (Pp. 617. 37s. 6d.) Oxford: Lange Medical Publications; Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1965.

This book has been well known since it first appeared in 1955, and that it is kept up to date can be judged by the fact that a new edition is produced every two years. Its title describes it well for it is a small book measuring only 7 inches by 4 and is 1 inch thick. Into this small volume is packed an amazing amount of reliable detail covering nearly every aspect of paediatrics. It even includes an interesting chapter on behaviour disorders. The book is likely to be of most use to the resident hospital doctor for it is full of practical information such as drug dosages, fluid requirements for intravenous and oral therapy in infants, the treatment of common poisonings, and a chapter on practical procedures. In the latter chapter the details of scalp vein and exchange transfusions could be made more explicit and it would have been useful if details were given of the modern packs that are available for exchange transfusion.

For the student the book is not claimed to be a substitute for the standard textbooks, and indeed the dogma made necessary by the synoptic approach can be misleading. For instance, the student might infer that atypical *Esch. coli* cause diarrhoea only in newborn babies. For the student the main advantage of this book is related to its size, for it can easily be carried in the pocket and can be used for quick snatches of revision at all sorts of time. The book is pleasantly set out, and is very easy to read, while both the undergraduate student and the busy practitioner will appreciate the way in which the authors have made use of the space available to describe common conditions well, and rare conditions concisely.

In summary, this is a book of extreme value to the paediatric resident and a very well worth-while constant companion for the undergraduate and postgraduate student.

The Essentials of Paediatrics for Nurses. 3rd edition. By I. KESSEL. (Pp. xii + 272; illustrated. 35s.) Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1967.

This is a comprehensive book on paediatrics. It includes chapters on the normal child, with information on the milestones of physical and mental development, the premature baby and affections of the newborn, ranging through congenital abnormalities, all the diseases of childhood from the very common to the obscure, and including a section on surgical conditions. There is also a very useful chapter of common poisonings in childhood with their treatment. It concludes by describing common paediatrics procedures and gives a short account of antimicrobial agents.

This is the third edition of a book first published in 1957. The subjects most affected by recent advances, such as the antimicrobial agents, have been fully revised. The chapter on infant feeding, however, seems to have been left behind. In most hospitals the suggested régime would now be considered out of date.

The book is well written, clearly printed, and easy to follow. There are many excellent photographs in black and white, and in colour, and some useful diagrams.

This comparatively slim volume contains a vast amount of information and in order to keep it concise much detail has been sacrificed so that the nurse in training for the 'Sick Children' part of the Register may find it inadequate. As a reference book for the general student nurse it would be perfectly adequate.

Factors Associated with Impairment of the Early Development of Prematures. Monographs of the Society for Research in Child Development, 1966, volume 31, no. 4. By MARTIN D. S. BRAINE, CARYL B. HEIMER, HELEN WORTIS, and ALFRED M. FREEDMAN. (Pp. 92; illustrated + tables. \$3.00.) University of Chicago Press. 1966.

This careful anterospective study of Negro infants weighing 2100 g. or less at birth is of special interest because it not only compares later development of low weight infants with that of larger born controls, but also attempts to define possible causes of the impairments found in the former. Later development was related to birthweight, sex, complications of late pregnancy and delivery, and to the neonatal complications of hyperbilirubinaemia, hypoxia, exaggerated weight loss, and infection.

The study is limited by sample selection (all subjects belonged to a materially and culturally deprived population group) and by the tests chosen to demonstrate degrees of impairment. Five examinations were carried out between 4 days and 13½ months. Test data utilized in this analysis included assessments of Moro and grasp reflexes, visual fixation and following, gross motor development, and two scores on the Cattell Infant Scale. Physical and neurological examinations were also carried out, but these findings, which might be considered of major importance in the assessment of impaired development, are not included in the analysis.

The statistical treatment of the data is dealt with at length and may make heavy reading for some. However, the findings and conclusions derived from the analysis are clearly summarized in non-statistical terms.

Most of the results have already been published and are well known. It is disappointing that this Report of a continuing study of children, now aged 8-10 years, should deal only with the first 15 months of life, the more so as some of the early findings were not confirmed when the children were re-examined at 2½ years (Heimer, C. B., Cutler, R., and Freedman, A. M. (1964). Neurological sequelae of premature birth. *Amer. J. Dis. Child.*, 108, 122.)

This re-presentation is likely to be of particular value to psychologists and others interested in the statistical treatment of psychological data. The inclusion of a glossary of simple medical terms suggests that the monograph was prepared primarily for the non-medical reader. A similar glossary of statistical terms would have increased its usefulness for the paediatrician.