

REVIEWS

Die Scheuermannsche Krankheit. By J. E. W. BROCHER, dozent in the University of Geneva. Basel, Benno Schwabe. 1946. Pp. 91. (Price, Fr. 11.)

This monograph is more than a description of adolescent kyphosis. The 122 illustrations with their short case histories cover the whole field of disc pathology.

As a disciple of Schmorl, Dr. Brocher has tried to correlate the radiological signs of disc pathology with clinical symptoms, and he has produced an interesting study of Scheuermann's disease. He rightly stresses the frequency with which this apparently benign disease gives rise to chronic pain and disability in later life, as result of arthritic changes in the mobile segments of the spine above and below the immobile and painless kyphos. The less common but more disabling lumbar form of the disease is given the prominence it deserves. The relation of trauma to back pain in adults with x-ray signs of old disease are discussed in detail, and he lays down rules for guidance in compensation cases. On etiology Dr. Brocher has little new to offer. He believes that weak back muscles, the trauma of heavy work, and some constitutional defect of the spine, all play their part in producing the characteristic wedging of vertebral bodies. Unfortunately, he has not been able to make any survey of children in the presymptomatic stage; nor can he provide any information about the nature of the constitutional defect.

Treatment is on routine lines: rest in recumbency, exercises for the back muscles, and protection from heavy work during the active stage of the disease.

This monograph deals largely with the late results of Scheuermann's disease in adults and a careful study has been made of the symptoms of associated osteo-arthritis. This in itself is interesting, but one would like to hear more about etiology and prevention of the condition at its inception in childhood.

The Psycho-Analytical Treatment of Children: Technical Lectures and Essays. By ANNA FREUD. Parts I and II, translated from the German by Nancy Procter-Gregg. London, Imago Publishing Co., Ltd., 1946. Pp. 98. (Price 10s. 6d.)

This is essentially a work for the practising analyst, but is so clearly written that it is likely to be of interest to others concerned with any branch of child psychology. It is the fruit of wide personal experience, and the flexibility of the author's technique is illustrated from the handling of a number of protracted child analyses. The author stresses the different methods of approach necessary in dealing with children as compared with adult subjects of analysis, and how some of these, whilst differing widely from the orthodox adult technique, may serve to attain a similar purpose.

The Care of Young Babies. By JOHN GIBBENS, M.D., M.R.C.P., Medical Officer to the Babies' Club, Chelsea. With a Foreword by Sir Robert Hutchison, Bt., M.D., F.R.C.P., Ex-President of the Royal College of Physicians. London, J. and A. Churchill, Ltd. Second edition, 1946. Pp. 200. With 7 plates and 7 text-figures. (Price 5s.)

The first edition of this useful little book has had five reprintings since it was published in 1940, and the second has now been revised and expanded. Written in a breezy, colloquial style, it contains in its two hundred pages a surprising amount of information. There can be no doubt that there is a place for a book of this kind, and, as it contains little that is controversial, it can be cordially recommended for family reading.

Clinical Practice in Infectious Diseases: For students, practitioners and medical officers. By E. H. R. HARRIES, M.D.Lond., F.R.C.P., Medical Superintendent, North Eastern Hospital (L.C.C.), and M. MITMAN, M.D.Lond., F.R.C.P., Medical Superintendent, River Hospitals. With a Foreword by Sir Allen Daley, M.D.Lond., F.R.C.P., Medical Officer of Health, London County Council. Third edition. Edinburgh, E. and S. Livingstone, Ltd. 1947. Pp. 679. (Price 22s. 6d.)

The appearance of a third edition of this deservedly popular work is most welcome, as it has unavoidably been out of print for over a year. The whole book has been revised and much new material added, bringing it into line with the advances in treatment which have occurred since 1943. It is already a standard work, and is likely to remain so. The production retains the high quality which the publishers have led us to expect of them.

The following have also been received:
Chemotherapeutic and other Studies of Typhus. By M. VAN DEN ENDE, C. H. STUART-HARRIS, F. FULTON and J. S. F. NIVEN, with C. H. ANDREWES, A. M. BEGG, W. J. ELDFORD, M. H. GLEESON WHITE, W. L. HAWLEY, K. C. MILLS, F. HAMILTON, and C. C. THOMAS. M.R.C., Spec. Rep. Series, No. 255. London. H.M.S.O. 1946. Pp. 246. (Price 12s. 6d.)

The Cultivation of Viruses and Rickettsiae in the Chick Embryo. By W. I. B. BEVERIDGE and F. M. BURNET. M.R.C., Spec. Rep. Series, No. 256. London. H.M.S.O. 1946. Pp. 92. (Price 2s.)

A Synopsis of Orthopaedic Surgery. By A. DAVID LE VAY, M.S.Lond., F.R.C.S.Eng., Honorary Orthopaedic Surgeon, Woolwich Memorial Hospital. With 55 illustrations. London. H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd. 1947. Pp. 242. (Price 15s.)



The Psycho-Analytical Treatment of Children: Technical Lectures and Essays

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