set by its predecessor and completes what has been a popular British textbook for some thirty-six years.


With seventy-five contributors represented within the covers of a single volume, this is a work which might well have appeared as a system of paediatrics in the more spacious days of publishing. The single-volume format, however, has much to recommend it, and although it has taken several years to produce, the editors are to be congratulated on the addition of an up-to-date and authoritative contribution to the literature. It would be impossible to attain a uniform standard throughout a work of this type, and different authors have inevitably pitched their contributions at somewhat different levels. The editors' own contributions, which deal principally with infant feeding (Grulee) and communicable diseases (Eley), may be taken as representing the balance of practical and scientific approach aimed at; these sections are excellent. A minor criticism might be made of the indexing, which whilst extensive, is sometimes inadequate. Thus under 'diarrhoea,' surely one of the most important symptoms in paediatrics, there are only references to epidemic diarrhoea of the newborn and to diarrhoea in urinary-tract infections; under 'dehydration' the only reference is to dehydration-fever of the newborn. The book as a whole will be found too full for the average student during the limited period of his paediatric study, but it is a valuable work of reference which deserves wide popularity.


The first of these two hardy annuals now appears under new editorship, though Dr. Isaac Abb is described as 'editor emeritus' in recognition of his remarkably long period of continuous service. Otherwise no very striking changes have been made, either in the aim or format of the book. The editor notes that a recent American survey showed that 75 per cent. of the care of children was in the hands of general practitioners, and accordingly he has emphasized the practical aspects of paediatrics in the selection of papers abstracted.

The 'Medical Annual' is now in its sixty-sixth year, and observes a strictly traditional appearance which, whilst reminiscent of the best Victorian bedside manner, covers a shrewd assessment of recent advances. A number of medical diseases of childhood are reviewed by Dr. R. E. Bonham-Carter, and paediatric surgery by the late Sir John Fraser. A review of the clinical applications of the Rhesus factor is written by the late Dr. D. A. C. McRae.

There is evidently still a place for annuals of this type, though in view of the enormous growth of the world literature, and the more extensive monthly abstracting services now available, annual publications which appear late will be valued more for their critical judgment than as means of keeping abreast of recent publications.


Since examination of bone-marrow has become an essential haematological technique, an atlas as well-illustrated as this will be welcome. From the paediatric viewpoint, however, the two pages of text devoted to the bone-marrow in infants and children are disappointing. Whilst paediatric haematology is admittedly a specialized subject, it is all the more important that pathologists who deal principally with adults but are required from time to time to report on the bone-marrow of infants and young children, should have a reliable work of reference available. It is to be hoped that both text and illustration dealing with normal and abnormal bone-marrow in infancy will be supplemented in future editions.


This book is of considerable interest as it represents the type of paediatric teaching actually reaching the home. The author, who writes with the experience of having reared four children herself and of having been the superintendent of a London infant welfare clinic, is director of the 'mothercraft section' of a popular woman's magazine. It may be said at once that her book contains a wealth of useful information presented readably and for the most part with commonsense. In these days of specialization, it is refreshing to find the same individual prepared to advise on diet during pregnancy, bathroom exercises, nursery schools, knitting matinee coats, religious education, worms, nursing, good manners, the salary of a housekeeper, masturbation, design of brassières, and 'eneuress' (sic). The reviewer turned with hope to the sections on infant feeding and on washing napkins. The first proved in the main simple and practical, but was marred by the usual hip-service to rigid...
hours of feeding. ‘In the civilized world of to-day... it is necessary for a child’s digestive system to learn at the earliest possible age that food will only be available at regular intervals and not at all during the night.’ In fairness it must be remembered that this is what was being taught in most medical schools twenty years ago, and that on the same page the author contradicts this dreary shibboleth by stating that if a baby persistently wakes at 2 a.m. and will sleep on if fed then, there is no harm in doing so, and also that a baby should not be kept screaming for its feeds. On the washing of napkins, a most important practical consideration on which it might have been hoped the author would have had some constructive suggestions, the method recommended, namely, holding the napkin in the lavatory pan under the flow of water to remove faecal matter, is thoroughly undesirable since it will risk contaminating the mother’s hands with the faecal flora of the rest of the household. The use of gamgee tissue inside the napkin is suggested, but the use of cellulose, which is both cheap and conveniently discarded, and the possible advantages of destructible napkins, are not mentioned. The type of soap to be used might also have been indicated.

The long section devoted to knitting and sewing the infant’s wardrobe is in many ways admirable, but whilst the general policy of encouraging mothers to make their infants’ clothing is desirable, it is doubtful whether in practice the time taken in knitting articles which are likely to get wet, e.g. pants, vests, and petticoats, and to shrink and ‘felt-up’, with frequent washing, is really well spent when utility shrink-resisting articles are obtainable.

Whilst a number of such criticisms might be made, the book is likely to prove really helpful to the housewife for which it is intended, and is on the whole one of the better books on infant management available.

**Technik der Kinderärztlichen Differentialdiagnostik.**


Professor Solé discusses the differential diagnosis of a number of presenting symptoms and signs in childhood in a manner rather reminiscent of a series of blackboard quizzes. The student or practitioner who hopes to find in this book details of the techniques in current use in paediatric diagnosis will be disappointed.

**SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PAEDIATRICS, ZURICH 1950**

It has been decided to hold the Congress during the last ten days of July, 1950. The actual Congress will last four to five days. It is proposed to hold two plenary sessions, each lasting half a day, and a series of simultaneous group sessions. Themes for the group sessions have been drawn up based on suggestions from all over the world.

Each group session will consist of pre-arranged lectures lasting from ten to thirty minutes, followed by open discussion in which no contribution may exceed five minutes. Notifications of important lectures not included in the programme can only be accepted through the secretariats of the various national paediatric societies.

The manuscripts of lectures (without illustrations) must reach the Organizing Committee not later than April 1, 1950, in order to permit their printing and distribution to conference members in advance.

It is planned to hold a scientific exhibition lasting two weeks in a hall adjoining the conference rooms to display the lecturer’s graphs, photographs, etc. The Organizing Committee will provide the exhibition space and cellotex sheets necessary to hang the graphs free of charge. Show cases for lantern-slides, coloured photographs, etc., can only be provided if ordered and paid for in advance. All those invited to lecture can display their material; other conference members must secure special permission from their national paediatric societies beforehand.

Following the first notice in May, 1948, only twenty-four nations have notified the Secretary-General, Prof. Emmett Holt (Bellevue Hospital, New York 16, N.Y., 26th Street and 1st Avenue), and the President of the Congress, Prof. G. Fanconi (Kinderspitzen, Zurich) of the names of the president and other officers of their national paediatric societies. These will receive free of charge until the Congress in 1950 copies of ‘Helvetic Paediatrica Acta’ with the official notices of the I.O.P. in six languages.

*(Extract from Helvetica Paediatrica Acta, Feb. 1949, p. 6. See also p. 13 of same issue for detailed programme.)*