

tion. The list also includes epilepsy and psychosis (why not skeletal disease or muscular disease?). One is almost tempted to suppose that something went wrong with the manuscript or the proofs and it is a pity that this chapter was included at all.

As stated at the outset, however, this should prove a useful book to many readers, though some caution is advisable when the author gets beyond the field of the well-studied and well-understood errors of metabolism.

**Recent Advances in Cerebral Palsy.** Edited by RONALD S. ILLINGWORTH. (Pp. 375; illustrated. 50s.) London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1959.

Professor Illingworth has collected a team of 14 collaborators to review recent thought on cerebral palsy and, though he makes no claim to have edited a textbook on the subject, between them the authors cover an impressive amount of ground. There are three chapters on classification, pathology and diagnosis; four on the physical, psychological and intellectual handicaps of palsied children; three on education and the statutory and voluntary services available in this country; a chapter each on therapy with drugs, physical medicine and speech therapy; and finally two surgical chapters, by an orthopaedic and neuro-surgeon respectively. Professor Illingworth has chosen his team well, and it is obvious that he has briefed them carefully, so that the book achieves marked unity of purpose even though the styles vary considerably from chapter to chapter. The quality is high throughout; not only is a tremendous amount of information available, but to anyone working with a special interest in this subject the book provides an outlook of informed and intelligent sympathy which work with these children often brings out. At the same time it is free of that kind of uncritical optimism which colours much of the writing on handicapped children. It would be difficult to pick out any chapter for special comment, but Professor Illingworth's opening chapter is a good summary of the scope of the subject, the aetiology and classification, and the chapters on diagnosis, education, treatment of deafness in these children and on drug therapy are perhaps the most immediately useful.

The authors are drawn from England, Australia and America. The English and even the Australian is simple enough to understand, but some of the American is difficult for the English reader, and unfortunately good translations are unobtainable. For instance, 'Far from envisioning static, fixed mechanisms, the neurohumoral orientation views organismic mechanisms as essentially dynamic, ever in flux and, within wide limits, capable of compensatory activity such that noxious influences can be tolerated to a considerable degree without resulting in clinically manifest derangements. Above all, it considers neurohumoral circuits as expressive of relationships that obtain among component parts—relationships not apprehendable by scrutiny limited to the anatomical elements themselves'. The reviewer thinks he understands but is relieved that the author's next sentence begins: 'This rubric appears to be one of the hardest for the student to grasp.' This neo-American medical lingo

is tedious reading and spoils an otherwise thoughtful, almost philosophical chapter on neurosurgery.

As usual, the binding and the paper is first-class. Some of the photographs, particularly those of abnormal brains, are helpful, and I would say this book is well worth its 50s. as a book of reference for a practising paediatrician.

**Textbook of Paediatrics.** 7th ed. By WALDO E. NELSON. (Pp. xxiv+1462; 428 figs. £5 15s. 6d.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders. 1959.

Griffiths-Mitchell, Mitchell-Nelson to Nelson in seven unfolding editions. A book which a quarter of a century ago set out to be an encyclopaedia of paediatrics in two volumes has now become the accepted text throughout the English-speaking world.

The present volume performs the exceptional feat of including much that is new but at the same time being somewhat shorter than its predecessor. There are new sections on: 'Prenatal Factors in Diseases of Children' by Josef Warkany and F. Clarke Fraser, on 'Diseases of Mesenchymal Tissues', by Ralph J. P. Wedgwood, on 'Behaviour Problems Associated with Organic Brain Damage' by John B. Bartram and an excellent chapter by Clement Smith and C. Davenport Cook on 'Pulmonary Ventilation in Health and Disease'.

Like the aphorism 'which says too much in trying to be too small' the excessive condensation which has enabled so much paediatric information to be distilled into such a small compass extracts its penalties. The book is an impressive compendium of facts and data but it is on the whole humourless and impersonal. One can feel the pressure of the Editor's pen erasing the anecdotes, the historical asides and the individual bigotry which make some smaller text-books memorable. Again the accepted viewpoints are well expounded but the reasoning which has led to their acceptance is frequently lacking. Amid the welter of facts there is little space for opinion and doubt. This may be admirable in a book of reference but in an undergraduate text-book it is liable to breed the student who is too pre-occupied in absorbing facts to have time to think. For this reason the seventh edition is more suited for a place in the practitioner's cupboard than on the student's desk.

In a book with no less than 81 contributors the uniform excellence of each section is remarkable. Since all the writers work in the United States there is in some sections a strong transatlantic emphasis. Certain views on dysplasia of the hip joint, or on allergy to cow's milk may be intriguing rather than acceptable in this country. Perhaps it is more surprising in a book of this magnitude that there is so much agreement with accepted British practice.

The illustrations and production are of the extremely high standard one expects in American text-books. The diagrams are easy to understand and the short selection of references at the end of each chapter provides a useful entrée to the literature of each topic. This edition will do much to maintain and enhance the reputation its predecessors have gained.



## Recent Advances in Cerebral Palsy

*Arch Dis Child* 1959 34: 541  
doi: 10.1136/adc.34.178.541

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