

Each chapter has an excellent bibliography and the book has a good index. It would be surprising to find no mention of autism in the index, though it receives passing mention in the text, but for the conviction that the author is really concerned with normal development and only considers abnormalities in order to illustrate how normal development can be distorted.

Chapters 5 and 12 deal with pathological development in a general fashion rather than in specific disease entities. There is a short chapter on the diagnosis of cerebral palsy and an entertaining, if not very instructive, chapter on persons of exceptional mental superiority.

The illustrations are clear and useful adjuncts to the text and there are very few misprints. There is a slight error on page 251 where two lines on electro-encephalography are allowed to intrude into discussion of pneumo-encephalography and, taken in conjunction with the following sentence, might suggest that electro-encephalography is a dangerous test.

This book is entertaining and it is practical; it is very well written; it should certainly be read by all who are engaged in the study of young children and it should be purchased for permanent reference rather than borrowed from a library.

The Physiology of the Newborn Infant. By CLEMENT A. SMITH. (Pp. xii + 497; 62 figs. 95s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 3rd edition. 1960.

The supremely high standard of previous editions of this classic study are more than fully maintained. Many chapters have been re-written. Revision has involved careful appraisal of advances made in the study of neonatal physiology since publication of the previous edition. Acknowledgements make special reference to the activities of the Nuffield Institute for Medical Research at Oxford, and the Department of Experimental Medicine at Cambridge. The format of the book remains unchanged. Each chapter consists of a scholarly evaluation of the present state of existing knowledge and prevailing views, and concludes with a summary outlining the significance and practical application of that knowledge in the clinical care of the newborn infant. Together, the richness of his personal research contributions and the wide ranging wealth of his references afford some indication of the immensity of the task undertaken by the author. With admirable skill, he marshals his evidence; from a maze of often conflicting views delineates a clearly defined theme; and with carefully developed, logical argument arrives at his assessment of the present position. Established facts are given as such. Theories as yet unproven are presented in unprejudiced form, but with an indication as to the extent to which they may be legitimately permitted to influence clinical practice. Herein is to be found one of the especial among innumerable attractions of the book to practising paediatricians. Seldom is accumulated experience and erudition available in such stimulating and readable form, as in this book. Could there be more penetrating answer to the question 'Does physiologic jaundice ever cause kernicterus, or other significant pathology?' than the author's—'The clinical

problem of physiologic jaundice has heretofore been essentially a problem of differential diagnosis. It may now have become one of definition'?

Diseases of the Nervous System in Infancy, Childhood and Adolescence. 4th ed. By FRANK R. FORD. (Pp. xvi + 1548; 215 figs. 236s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1960.

Frank Ford's textbook, which is one of the major classics of medicine, has now reached its fourth edition. The first appeared in 1937. It is becoming increasingly rare for a single writer to attempt to cope with such an extensive field, but the result certainly has advantages in respect of uniformity of presentation and simplicity of reference. Dr. Ford's approach is refreshingly personal, thus: 'Hysterical deafness is described but I have never seen it.' In this way he avoids carrying over material of doubtful validity from previous texts. At the same time his account of the subject is very extensive and authoritative. There is no other work with which it can be compared and it is essential to any library dealing with paediatrics, neurology or child psychiatry.

The price of the book makes it unlikely to appeal to the individual purchaser though it is worth much more than a great deal of ephemeral literature. The volume is well documented and some idea of the scope can be gained from the fact that the index occupies 221 pages. The index would have been much more convenient if authors and subjects had been listed separately. The mere weight of the book makes it cumbersome for the less athletic reader; perhaps two volumes should be considered if it is to grow any more.

Dr. Ford does not give an account of the neurology of old age, but otherwise his text is so full that one wonders in what other respect it differs from a comprehensive treatise on neurology. None the less it will continue to make a special appeal to those interested in children. The revision of the new edition appears very adequate and has obviously involved critical scrutiny of recent publications. Crome's work on the neuropathology of mental subnormality is mentioned four times and a bibliography is provided in addition to references in the text. The illustrations are excellent and the quality of the paper does full justice to them.

In his section on tuberous sclerosis Dr. Ford states: 'No doubt tuberous sclerosis is frequently responsible for convulsions which are mistakenly attributed to epilepsy'. This might indicate a dualist approach, but in fact this is not reflected in the excellent chapter on epilepsy which fully recognizes the principle of causality and refers only in passing to the 'so-called essential epilepsies' as those in which 'no clinical evidence of organic disease of the brain can be found'. The author also shows a very proper scientific scepticism in regard to a special 'epileptic personality'.

It is rather surprising to find such an authority as Dr. Ford falling into the usual trap about 'mongolian spots' which he described as part of the syndrome of mongolism. Perhaps we could avoid these difficulties if we used the Russian term of 'Down's disease'! The true Mongol spot is a naevoid formation in the lumbo-sacral area,

found among Mongols and Tatars, and has nothing to do with the clinical condition of mongolism. The term 'Mongolian Idiocy' should certainly now be abandoned since, as Ford himself points out, most of these children are of imbecile level. Also, tuberculosis is no longer very common later in childhood among children with mongolism. This edition went to press too soon to record the interesting new developments in regard to chromosome constitution.

Dr. Ford has done a great service to neurology. His book is an essential work of reference in this and related fields. It will continue to be of great assistance to the practitioner, the teacher and the research worker. The English is lucid and simple.

Infant Foods and Feeding Practice. By HERMAN FREDERIC MEYER. (Pp. 360; 14 figs. 78s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas; Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1960.

This book, by a Chicago paediatrician, who is Associate Professor of Paediatrics at North-Western University Medical School, is most refreshing. Written by one with a long experience of routine well-baby care as well as hospital and domiciliary paediatric practice, it is the successor of 'Essentials of Infant Feeding for Physicians' which was well known in the United States a few years ago. In this volume the author has emphasized and amplified those sections of the original book which proved most popular and helpful, and the title of the book has been appropriately changed.

The theory and practice of dietetics in the first year of life, including the newborn period, are thoroughly reviewed and discussed in a very satisfying, often humorous, down-to-earth manner by one who has clearly had a great deal of experience, not only with patients but also with parents, doctors and students.

Breast feeding and its present position in paediatric practice in the United States and many other countries are fully and objectively considered, though the management of the numerous minor breast disturbances which frequently arise in the puerperium, and often unnecessarily lead to weaning, has received too little attention. The author deplors the fact that in the United States only 20% of babies are now being breast fed on discharge from maternity hospital, but he is encouraged by a reversal of this regrettable trend in the better educated sections of the community, such as university graduates.

Artificial feeding has been reviewed from its evolutionary aspect leading to the contemporary swing back of the pendulum to more fundamental, simpler methods, and the somewhat confused American scene with its 73 varieties of artificial infant foods has been arranged and coordinated into a rational picture.

The various food elements, proteins, fats, carbohydrates, minerals and vitamins, are considered in their modern context and many points which are new in a book on infant feeding attract the reader.

The section on mixed feeding is also a happy blend of the modern scientific approach and practical wisdom and experience and it is gratifying to find that the author, like most of the leading American and British paedia-

tricians, sees no indication for introducing mixed feeding until the third or fourth month in the average infant, though it is rightly stressed that in this form of feeding, as in milk feeding, there are great individual variations.

The last chapter 'Clinical Trivia and Philosophic Observations in an Every-Day Feeding Practice' is an entertaining and intensely practical account of common misconceptions and minor problems. It will be particularly useful for students and young paediatricians and general practitioners in whose eyes some of these minor problems often loom large and may be very disturbing.

The 200 references will prove valuable for those who wish to pursue various points further. Although written for American paediatric practice this book will prove equally welcome and valuable in this and other English-speaking countries, for the basic principles of dietetics in infancy are similar everywhere.

Neue Paediatrische Urologie. By ERICH ZAPP. Beiheft zum Archiv fuer Kinderheilkunde, 40. Heft. (Pp. 142; illustrated.) Stuttgart: Ferdinand Enke Verlag. 1960.

In the foreword the author states that this little book is written for paediatricians in order to acquaint them with recent developments in paediatric urology. The main emphasis is on diagnosis; therapy and operations are only briefly mentioned.

The English reader will find this little monograph too short to be of much value to paediatricians; but it may be of some use to undergraduates and practitioners. It appears to be a little out of date; although written in 1960, many of the advances in paediatric urology during the last decade are not mentioned.

The first chapter contains brief descriptions of paediatric urology and diagnostic methods. It seems strange that x-ray cinematography and studies with the image intensifier, which have done so much to unravel some of the confusion surrounding paediatric urological conditions are not described at all, and that the micturating cysto-urethrogram, which is perhaps the most important of all radiological investigations in childhood, receives only scant mention.

Of the succeeding chapters, some, like the one on urinary infections and stone formation in the urinary tract, are very adequate, others, like the one on megareters, ectopia vesicae, bladder neck obstruction and the neurogenic bladder, are somewhat out of date, especially when the treatment and indication for treatment are discussed.

It is, of course, difficult to compress such large and rapidly expanding subjects into a few pages, but it is not easy to understand why some extremely rare conditions like atresia of the urethra and congenital elephantiasis of the penis are described in some detail, and why some common lesions like phimosis and incompletely descended testicles are only very briefly mentioned.

The author has written a most readable and concise little monograph based on a comparatively small series of cases. The results mentioned in this book do not quite come up to those published by the larger Paediatric



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