4. The recommendation of the Medical Sub-Committee of the Child Guidance Council that Child Psychiatrists should have had experience with normal children and with sick children in hospital or in general practice is welcomed, but the Executive Committee of the B.P.A. recommend that this experience should be sufficiently thorough to enable candidates to qualify for the D.C.H. or some higher qualification in Child Health.

5. It is also recommended that a Child Psychiatrist attached to a Children's Hospital or a General Hospital should be recognized as a full member of the hospital staff, subject to the individual holding the usual higher qualifications.

6. The Executive Committee of the B.P.A. recommend that in Child Guidance Clinics not attached to a Children's Hospital or a Children's Department of a General Hospital, there should be available a paediatric service for physical examination of children attending such clinics wherever possible.

W. G. WYLLIE (Chairman).

CHARLES HARRIS.

C. T. POTTER.

Jan., 1946.

REVIEW


This little book, the value of which is much greater than its modest size might suggest, comes at an opportune time. The concern that is generally felt over the birth rate is coupled with a realization that whilst the mortality of infants aged one to twelve months has fallen remarkably during the present century, the neonatal mortality has not been reduced to a corresponding extent. Of the infants who die in the first month, over 50 per cent. are premature. Dr. Crosse has not only had unrivalled experience in this country in the care of premature babies, but over a period of years has worked on a technique of care and management which has added its value by the results achieved. It is with this aspect of prematurity that her book is primarily concerned. Like all books based on extensive practical experience and a critical assessment of results, it should prove of very great value to those faced with similar problems. It would have been interesting to have had a more detailed follow-up of the premature infants who survived, but a sufficient number of studies have been made along these lines to establish the fact that, despite the complications and disabilities that are observed in a certain proportion of cases, premature babies are, as a group, worth saving. It is fortunate that Dr. Crosse’s experience in this work is now available to a wider public.


It is always a pleasure to meet old friends in new clothes, and those who have been familiar for many years, first with Dr. Griffiths’ classical textbook, and later with Griffith-Mitchell, will now welcome the fourth edition of one of the great American paediatric texts under the editorship of Professor Nelson. The present editor was closely associated with Dr. Mitchell, whose death within a month of that of Dr. Griffith was a great loss to paediatrics, and it will be generally agreed that the task of editorship could not have passed into more suitable hands. The present edition has been entirely re-written, but whilst it is in this sense a new book, it carries on the tradition of scholarship that was a hallmark of the previous editions. It continues to be of outstanding value as a book of reference, not only on account of the text itself but because no other one-volume paediatric text provides such a comprehensive bibliography. If the size of the team of contributors has resulted in some unevenness, it is more than compensated for by the freshness of outlook and the number of schools represented. The editor is the more to be congratulated on his success in avoiding overlapping and on the production of a text of which the standard is so high throughout.

On the technical side, the production is excellent, and if it is at first confusing to the reader unfamiliar with double columns and reduction of margins, it will be realized that it is only by such means that the text could have been kept within the confines of a single volume. Whilst the book may prove too formidable in size for any but the more ambitious student during his period of paediatric clerkship, it is one which any doctor requiring a reference work on this subject will find invaluable.


Dr. Caffey’s reputation in the field of radiology is well established, and it will be enhanced by this new volume. It is unique in presenting up-to-date views, beautifully illustrated, on all aspects of the use of X-ray photography in the diagnosis of disease in childhood. It appears to originate from a series of conferences at the Babies Hospital, New York, over the last twenty years, and it will be seen that Dr. Caffey has been as well served by his clinical colleagues as he has served them. Six main sections cover the anatomical divisions of the body. Line drawings are used as well as X-ray pictures to illustrate the book, the whole standard of which, from the production side, is excellent. This will be a most valuable work of reference for all concerned in the care of children.


This volume is a splendid memorial to a hundred years of paediatric teaching and practice in Sweden, and it is strikingly associated with the names of Professors Jundell, Lichtenstein, and Wallgren, who have themselves done so much to build up the international reputation both of Swedish paediatrics and of the Acta Paediatrica. There are some fifty-two contributions, the great majority being in English, dealing with a wide variety of subjects. As would be expected, a number of these are historical. Professor Lichtenstein’s “Outline of the history of paediatrics in Sweden” and Professor Wallgren’s “Social welfare of Swedish children, past and present” will be of particular interest to English readers, in showing the way in which many similar problems to those existing in this country have been met. One cannot fail to be impressed with the similarity of outlook and ideals that have actuated paediatricians in Sweden and in Britain, and whilst we have much to learn in the applications of social medicine of childhood from our Swedish colleagues, we can feel sure that a resumption of the exchange of ideas, and personal contacts, which was so pleasant a feature of the pre-war years, will be mutually appreciated.