

authors, it is felt that the presentation could be improved in subsequent editions, and a number of sections usefully expanded or clarified.

The Foundations of Health in Childhood. By NORMAN B. CAPON, M.D., F.R.C.P., Professor of Child Health in the University of Liverpool. The Convocation Lecture, 1947, of the National Children's Home. 1947. London. Pp. 76. (Price 2s. 6d.)

In lecturing to a lay audience, Professor Capon has been wise in getting back to facts and avoiding unsupported theory concerning the health of the individual child. Whilst much of his material will necessarily be familiar to paediatricians, his presentation is fresh and stimulating, and the whole book can be read with profit and interest. Indeed, it is surprising how much he has managed to compress into small compass without overburdening his pages with statistics. Where these are used, for example, in emphasizing the increasing importance of street accidents as a cause of death in childhood, they are used clearly and effectively. His final discussion on the attainment of optimum health is excellent.

Paediatrics for Nurses. By ARTHUR G. WATKINS, M.D., F.R.C.P., Physician in Children's Diseases, Cardiff Royal Infirmary; Lecturer in Paediatrics, Welsh National School of Medicine. Illustrated. 1947. Bristol: John Wright and Sons; London: Simpkin Marshall (1941), Ltd. Pp. 192. (Price 10s.)

The training of nurses in the care of the sick child is of such outstanding importance that every part of it deserves to come under critical scrutiny. Before writing a textbook for nurses' use, the paediatrician will naturally ask himself what he would like the fully trained nurse to know, and not solely what is included in her syllabus. He will realize that with the limited time which can be devoted to theoretical work, essentials must be emphasized and non-essentials reduced to a minimum or omitted altogether. He may well remember being asked to cover the whole field of paediatrics in two lectures to nurses undergoing their general training. Dr. Watkins' book will, therefore, be read with interest by those in any way concerned with the teaching of nurses.

What the author has, in fact, produced is a short, readable little book dealing with disease in childhood along orthodox lines. This in itself is no mean achievement, since the book is written clearly and concisely throughout, but it is something of a disappointment to find so little attention paid to the practical problems with which the nurse is likely to be faced or to the behaviour of the child when sick. Whilst the nurse must obviously know something of the diseases with which she will come in contact, there seems little object in training her to be a somewhat inferior doctor.

More information might usefully have been given about paediatric procedures in which she may be required to assist, about the diet and appetite of the sick child, his convalescence and rehabilitation, and the effects of homesickness on the child in hospital, and less about the Rhesus factor and haemoglobin levels. It is doubtful how much it will benefit the nurse to be taught that the serum calcium is reduced in rickets (even if this were generally true), but much heart-burning might be saved if it were pointed out that when collecting urine from a male infant the test-tube should not be placed in the erect position. Whilst the book is good of its kind, and is likely to be widely read, it is less certain that the kind is really that most suitable for nurses.

The 1947 Year Book of Pediatrics. Edited by ISAAC A. ABT, D.Sc., M.D., Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics, Northwestern University Medical School; with the collaboration of Arthur F. Abt, M.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Northwestern University Medical School, 1947. Chicago: The Year Book Publishers Inc. Pp. 454. (Price 21s.)

This volume is dedicated by the publishers to Dr. Isaac Abt, on the occasion of his eightieth birthday. It is prefaced by appreciations written by Drs. Julius Hess, A. A. Weech, and E. F. Ellis, and it is appropriate that a year book which Dr. Abt has himself edited for forty-six years should serve as his Festschrift. Congratulations on a life of remarkable achievement will be extended to Dr. Abt by paediatricians throughout the world.

Developmental Diagnosis. Normal and Abnormal Child Development. By A. GESELL, M.D., and C. S. AMATRUDE, M.D. Second Edition: Revised and Enlarged. 1947. London: Hamish Hamilton Medical Books. Pp. 496. (Price 32s. 6d.)

Approximately seventy illustrative case histories have been added, and a section based on the authors 'Embryology of Behaviour' included. The last chapter, which is also new, deals with developmental paediatrics.

Infant Nutrition. A Testbook of Infant Feeding for Students and Practitioners of Medicine. By P. C. JEANS, A.B., M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, College of Medicine, State University of Iowa; and W. K. MARRIOTT, B.S., M.D., late Professor of Pediatrics, Washington University School of Medicine. Fourth Edition. 1947. London: Henry Kimpton. Pp. 516. (Price 32s. 6d.)

A new edition of this well-known work is welcome, since there have been many advances in the science of nutrition since the last was published. Opportunity has been taken for complete revision of the text, and a number of illustrations have been added. Approximately half the book is devoted to the physiology of infant nutrition and normal