

REVIEWS

Advances in Pediatrics. Vol. 3. Edited by S. Z. LEVINE, A. M. BUTLER, L. EMMETT HOLT JR., and A. A. WEECH. 1948. New York and London: Interscience Publishers. Pp. 363. (Price 45s.)

This volume follows the general plan of its predecessors, and provides a series of critical reviews of special branches of paediatrics by recognized authorities. The following are dealt with: effects of birth processes and obstetric procedures upon the newborn infant (Dr. Clement A. Smith); retrolental fibroplasia (the late Dr. T. L. Terry); emotions and symptoms in paediatric practice (Dr. Milton J. E. Swan); therapeutic agents in the treatment of epileptiform seizures (Dr. W. G. Lennox); viral hepatitis (Dr. J. Stokes Jr.); abnormalities and variations of sexual development during childhood and adolescence (Dr. L. Wilkins); puberty and adolescence: psychologic considerations (Dr. H. Bruch); and the osteochondroses (Dr. B. Howorth). The field covered is so wide and varied that criticism is only possible in general terms: indeed, this book well illustrates the rapid specialization within a speciality that is taking place, and the difficulty facing the 'general paediatrician' in attempting to keep abreast of his whole subject. The standard of all the articles is high, and there is no suggestion of the 'scissors-and-paste' type of production that is becoming only too familiar.

Notes on Infant Feeding. By G. B. FLEMING, B.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.F.P.S., and STANLEY GRAHAM, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.F.P.S. Third Edition. 1948. Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone Ltd. Pp. 66. (Price 3s.)

There will always be a place for a concise, clearly written booklet on infant feeding, designed primarily for medical students. This one has already amply justified its existence, and it is to be hoped that the third edition will enjoy the success of its predecessors. The authors properly stress that feeds must be sufficient in quantity, and that when artificial feeds are prescribed the instructions must be clear and comprehensible to the more unintelligent mother. If the information given in these sixty-six pages is absorbed, the budding doctor should be able to advise on infant feeding with considerable confidence based on a grasp of the physiological principles involved.

The Rh Blood Groups and their Clinical Effects. By P. L. MOLLISON, A. E. MOURANT, and R. R. RACE. Med. Res. Council, Memorandum No. 19. 1948. London: H.M.S.O. Pp. 74. (Price 1s. 6d.)

This admirable summary makes readily available the essentials of recent work which has been scattered

throughout the world literature. Such matters as exsanguination transfusion of infants with haemolytic disease are clearly described, and the indications discussed; these will be of particular interest to the paediatrician. Whilst the genetical basis of the Rh groups and the calculation of Rh chromosome frequencies are never likely to be supremely simple to the practising physician, he will certainly welcome the appearance of such an authoritative (and inexpensive) source of reference.

The Radiology of Bones and Joints. By JAMES BRAILSFORD, M.D., Ph.D., F.R.C.P., F.I.C.S., Director of Radiological Studies in Living Anatomy, University of Birmingham; Honorary Radiologist to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, etc. Fourth Edition. 1948. London: J. and A. Churchill Ltd. Pp. 760, with 615 illustrations. (Price 63s.)

This encyclopaedic work passes from strength to strength, the fourth edition having been expanded and brought up to date. Many of the conditions described are of direct interest to the paediatrician, and since the author is well known as an authority on bone disease in childhood, his book is one which no paediatric library can afford to neglect. The high standard of reproduction of radiographs has been maintained.

Tuberculosis in Childhood. By DOROTHY STOPFORD PRICE, M.D., Physician, St. Ultan's Infant Hospital, Dublin, etc. Second Edition. 1948. Bristol: John Wright and Sons Ltd. Pp. 228, with illustrations. (Price 25s.)

Dr. Price's book, to which Mr. H. F. MacAuley contributes a chapter on tuberculous orthopaedic lesions, provides not only a useful summary of the author's own observations and experience, but also excellent reviews of the epidemiology, radiology, and types of spread. Separate chapters are devoted to tuberculosis in the adolescent and to extrapulmonary lesions. This book should be read by all who are apt to underestimate the importance of the primary lesion in childhood. The author claims a reduction of mortality in the 0- to 1-year age period from 77 to 28 per cent. in one clinic, a remarkable improvement even if allowance is made for improved ascertainment. But even the lower figure is still formidable, and the author would be the last to suggest that the problem of childhood and adolescent tuberculosis is not one of the gravest to be faced in post-war Europe. The book can be strongly recommended.