BOOK REVIEWS

set by its predecessor and completes what has been a popular British textbook for some thirty-six years.


With seventy-five contributors represented within the covers of a single volume, this is a work which might well have appeared as a system of paediatrics in the more spacious days of publishing. The single-volume format, however, has much to recommend it, and although it has taken several years to produce, the editors are to be congratulated on the addition of an up-to-date and authoritative contribution to the literature. It would be impossible to attain a uniform standard throughout a work of this type, and different authors have inevitably pitched their contributions at somewhat different levels. The editors’ own contributions, which deal principally with infant feeding (Grulee) and communicable diseases (Eley), may be taken as representing the balance of practical and scientific approach aimed at; these sections are excellent. A minor criticism might be made of the indexing, which whilst extensive, is sometimes inadequate. Thus under ‘diarrhoea,’ surely one of the most important symptoms in paediatrics, there are only references to epidemic diarrhoea of the newborn and to diarrhoea in urinary-tract infections; under ‘dehydration’ the only reference is to dehydration-fever of the newborn. The book as a whole will be found too full for the average student during the limited period of his paediatric study, but it is a valuable work of reference which deserves wide popularity.


The first of these two hardy annuals now appears under new editorship, though Dr. Isaac Abb is described as ‘editor emeritus’ in recognition of his remarkably long period of continuous service. Otherwise no very striking changes have been made, either in the aim or format of the book. The editor notes that a recent American survey showed that 75 per cent. of the care of children was in the hands of general practitioners, and accordingly he has emphasized the practical aspects of paediatrics in the selection of papers abstracted.

The ‘Medical Annual’ is now in its sixty-sixth year, and observes a strictly traditional appearance which, whilst reminiscent of the best Victorian bedside manner, covers a shrewd assessment of recent advances. A number of medical diseases of childhood are reviewed by Dr. R. E. Bonham-Carter, and paediatric surgery by the late Sir John Fraser. A review of the clinical applications of the Rhesus factor is written by the late Dr. D. A. C. McRae.

There is evidently still a place for annuals of this type, though in view of the enormous growth of the world literature, and the more extensive monthly abstracting services now available, annual publications which appear late will be valued more for their critical judgment than as means of keeping abreast of recent publications.


Since examination of bone-marrow has become an essential haematological technique, an atlas as well-illustrated as this will be welcome. From the paediatric viewpoint, however, the two pages of text devoted to the bone-marrow in infants and children are disappointing. Whilst paediatric haematology is admittedly a specialized subject, it is all the more important that pathologists who deal principally with adults but are required from time to time to report on the bone-marrow of infants and young children, should have a reliable work of reference available. It is to be hoped that both text and illustration dealing with normal and abnormal bone-marrow in infancy will be supplemented in future editions.


This book is of considerable interest as it represents the type of paediatric teaching actually reaching the home. The author, who writes with the experience of having reared four children herself and of having been the superintendent of a London infant welfare clinic, is director of the ‘mothercraft section’ of a popular woman’s magazine. It may be said at once that her book contains a wealth of useful information presented readably and for the most part with commonsense. In these days of specialization, it is refreshing to find the same individual prepared to advise on diet during pregnancy, bathroom exercises, nursery schools, knitting matinee coats, religious education, worms, nursing, good manners, the salary of a housekeeper, masturbation, design of brassieres, and ‘enueuresis’ (sic). The reviewer turned with hope to the sections on infant feeding and on washing napkins. The first proved in the main simple and practical, but was marred by the usual lip-service to rigid