hours of feeding. ‘In the civilized world of to-day ... it is necessary for a child’s digestive system to learn at the earliest possible age that food will only be available at regular intervals and not at all during the night.’ In fairness it must be remembered that this is what was being taught in most medical schools twenty years ago, and that on the same page the author contradicts this dreary shibboleth by stating that if a baby persistently wakes at 2 a.m. and will sleep on if fed then, there is no harm in doing so, and also that a baby should not be kept screaming for its feeds. On the washing of napkins, a most important practical consideration on which it might have been hoped the author would have had some constructive suggestions, the method recommended, namely, holding the napkin in the lavatory pan under the flow of water to remove faecal matter, is thoroughly undesirable since it will risk contaminating the mother’s hands with the faecal flora of the rest of the household. The use of gamgee tissue inside the napkin is suggested, but the use of cellulose, which is both cheap and conveniently discarded, and the possible advantages of destructible napkins, are not mentioned. The type of soap to be used might also have been indicated.

The long section devoted to knitting and sewing the infant’s wardrobe is in many ways admirable, but whilst the general policy of encouraging mothers to make their infants’ clothing is desirable, it is doubtful whether in practice the time taken in knitting articles which are likely to get wet, e.g. pants, vests, and petticoats, and to shrink and ‘felt-up’, with frequent washing, is really well spent when utility shrink-resisting articles are obtainable.

Whilst a number of such criticisms might be made, the book is likely to prove really helpful to the housewife for which it is intended, and is on the whole one of the better books on infant management available.


Professor Solé discusses the differential diagnosis of a number of presenting symptoms and signs in childhood in a manner rather reminiscent of a series of blackboard quizzes. The student or practitioner who hopes to find in this book details of the techniques in current use in paediatric diagnosis will be disappointed.

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PAEDIATRICS, ZURICH 1950

It has been decided to hold the Congress during the last ten days of July, 1950. The actual Congress will last four to five days. It is proposed to hold two plenary sessions, each lasting half a day, and a series of simultaneous group sessions. Themes for the group sessions have been drawn up based on suggestions from all over the world.

Each group session will consist of pre-arranged lectures lasting from ten to thirty minutes, followed by open discussion in which no contribution may exceed five minutes. Notifications of important lectures not included in the programme can only be accepted through the secretariats of the various national paediatric societies.

The manuscripts of lectures (without illustrations) must reach the Organizing Committee not later than April 1, 1950, in order to permit their printing and distribution to conference members in advance.

It is planned to hold a scientific exhibition lasting two weeks in a hall adjoining the conference rooms to display the lecturer’s graphs, photographs, etc. The Organizing Committee will provide the exhibition space and cellotex sheets necessary to hang the graphs free of charge. Show cases for lantern-slides, coloured photographs, etc., can only be provided if ordered and paid for well in advance. All those invited to lecture can display their material; other conference members must secure special permission from their national paediatric societies beforehand.

Following the first notice in May, 1948, only twenty-four nations have notified the Secretary-General, Prof. Emmett Holt (Bellevue Hospital, New York 16, N.Y., 26th Street and 1st Avenue), and the President of the Congress, Prof. G. Fanconi (Kinderspital, Zurich) of the names of the president and other officers of their national paediatric societies. These will receive free of charge until the Congress in 1950 copies of ‘Helvetia Paediatrica Acta’ with the official notices of the I.O.P. in six languages.

(Extract from Helvetica Paediatrica Acta, Feb. 1949, p. 6. See also p. 13 of same issue for detailed programme.)