
Professor Glanzmann’s collection of lectures on paediatrics is well known to many and in its third edition has been extensively revised. It is interesting to see how the nearly 200 lectures have been allocated. The British reader will at once note that the newborn period has not received special attention, so that he will have to hunt under various headings for disorders of that age and there is no account of the management of the premature baby. Among new topics are fibrocystic disease of the pancreas, streptomycin, B.C.G., and the rheus factor. The standard of photographs and printing is high and this can be accepted as an excellent product of the Swiss school of paediatrics.


The third edition of Professor McMurray’s well known book on orthopaedic surgery has been revised and altered in several chapters, but its size and design remain unchanged. Here is to be found a good, straightforward account of orthopaedics based on the work of Hugh Owen Thomas and Robert Jones and reflecting the Liverpool school of thought in which the author has spent his professional life and gained his great experience.

If the views expressed are at times didactic then that makes for compression, and certainly the author has succeeded in presenting his own precepts and practice in a way that is both readable and instructive. He writes, for instance, of congenital dislocation of the hip with easy confidence and has no qualms about the results following his routine manual reductions and plaster of Paris: not for him the modernistic frills of arthograms or the time-consuming methods of gradual reduction. Nor must the paediatrician look here for academic discussion of some of his border-line orthopaedic problems such as bone changes in lipoidosisis and leukaemia, or a consideration of the spastic and athetoid types of cerebral palsy, but he can look (and not look in vain) for a broad, sound survey of the whole field of orthopaedics tinged with the author’s particular shade of individualism.


The current issue of this classic annual is in general as pleasing as usual. The timely articles on new preparations, such as those on aureomycin by Andrew Wilson and the treatment of malaria by G. M. Findlay are particularly welcome. N. R. Barrett’s review of coarctation of the aorta is noteworthy. The illustrations are excellent: among the most interesting are reproductions of Barclay’s microradiographs. Synoptic books of this sort should be reliable; unfortunately there seems to have been some carelessness in the production of this one. A doctor who had read the note on pink disease might be excused for giving B.A.L. 3 mg./kilo. four-hourly for nine days, instead of four-hourly for two days, six-hourly for one day, and twelve-hourly for seven days. Minor errors are frequent, for example, Proceedings of the Royal Society for Proceedings of the Royal Society of Medicine (Plate XV); 1914 for 1941 (p. 112); Budding for Budding (p. 135); Yllp for Yllpö, and Morrison for Mollison (p. 165).


Dr. Scott’s monograph is described as a ‘clinical survey’ and incorporates a study of 645 cases of rheumatic infection attending the Children’s Hospital, Melbourne, from 1936 to 1942. The literature, including that relating to epidemiology and control, is reviewed, and the present views regarding etiology are summarized. Whilst it cannot be said that the author has made any outstanding contribution to our understanding of the most baffling disease, his case-material is sufficiently large to be worth analysing, and his painstaking review of the literature will be found useful.

Special Breathing Exercises for Children. Department of Child Health and Medical Illustration, Guy’s Hospital. London. 1949. (Price 9d.)

This card, simply phrased and attractively illustrated, is designed to teach asthmatic children breathing exercises.

Books Received


L’Alimentation et la Vie

The secretary of the Société Scientifique D’Hygiène Alimentaire informs us that their Bulletin, which has been published since 1904, has been altered in form and, since the beginning of 1949, has appeared under the title L’Alimentation et la Vie. It appears quarterly, and the annual subscription is 650 francs.