

REVIEWS

Morbus Caeruleus. By E. MANNHEIMER. 1949. Basle: S. Karger Ltd. Pp. 332. Price Sw. F. 40.-

This book is written by a team of 11 workers and analyses 114 cases of cyanotic congenital heart disease: it will be read with great interest by other workers in this field and contains a valuable amount of information.

They divided their cases into eight groups: more than half were thought to have Fallot's tetralogy, the next largest groups consisting of 17 cases of Eisenmenger's complex and ten cases of dextrocardia with cyanosis, a complicated and interesting group that they describe fairly fully; isolated pulmonary stenosis, three cases; tricuspid atresia, two cases; transposition, six cases; and truncus communis, three cases, were smaller groups. A few of these last had been seen earlier and were supported by necropsy, but the investigations had not been done so fully by these modern methods.

Whether this is the time for writing such a book or whether it would not be better as separate papers is doubtful, for naturally some chapters, for example that on embryology, are dealing with established knowledge and should need little change later, while others, for example, on angiocardiology and catheterization, are more in the nature of preliminary reports and are not so likely to represent the authors' views in a few years' time.

In the section on cardiac catheterization, however, the authors have made a useful comparison of their results in 19 congenital cases with their results in 30 normal cases, and have laid down some standards of what may be regarded as differences that are significant of left to right shunts. They consider a difference of oxygen content of more than 1.2 vols. % between samples from consecutive heart chambers or arteries proves a left to right shunt.

The results on angiocardiology in 28 cases are presented and there were two deaths, where this cannot be excluded as a partial cause, which fact agrees with some other views that angiocardiology is a serious but justifiable procedure in patients as ill as this. As a criticism of detail it is not always easy to see quickly the number of seconds after injection when an angiocardio-gram was taken. The authors present many cases of considerable interest, and some of these are given in detail in the appendix.

Perhaps the long section on radiology and radioscopy is one of the most valuable. They find that the backward enlargement of the heart in the left anterior oblique position is not a reliable indication of enlargement of the left ventricle, but may be caused by the left ventricle being pushed back by an enlarged right ventricle, and think a rather pointed cap particularly characteristic of this. The part on vascular anomalies is extensive and of much interest.

There are interesting chapters on electrocardiology and on exercise tolerance tests in these patients.

The last chapter deals with the surgical treatment of

21 cases. The 13 that survived were all much improved and the high mortality was almost entirely in the first half of the series, further emphasis that the investigation and treatment of these patients should only be undertaken at special centres such as this, where wide experience is available. The routine use of digitalis after operation which they recommend has not been found necessary in most centres.

Few misprints were noted but on page 57, 72 is printed as 27 cases.

Pathologie du Nouveau-né. By JEAN BALMÈS and ANDRÉ LÉVY (with a Foreword by Robert Debré). 1950. Paris: G. DOIN & CIE. Pp. 316. Price Fr. F. 900.-

This book covers the wide field of the pathology of the newborn, and includes chapters on the anatomical and physiological changes which take place at birth. Each section is presented essentially as a review of the literature of the past decade, and most of the references are to French work.

The authors state that their aim is to provide a textbook for students and not a reference book for the specialist, and it may be fairly said that, within the rather narrow field of the literature reviewed, they have achieved their object.

Infant Nutrition: Its Physiological Basis. By F. W. CLEMENTS, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M. 1949. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. Pp. 254. Price 21s.

As its title indicates, this volume is a textbook of nutrition and not of infant feeding, although there is one short chapter on the application of the principles of nutrition set out in the earlier part of the book. Foetal nutrition is considered in detail, after which milk and the requirements of the young infant are reviewed. The recent literature is well covered. 'Infant Nutrition' is likely to find a place as a work of reference in every paediatric library.

Aspects Biologiques de Quelques Maladies de L'Enfant.

By G. SCHAPIRA, and J. C. DREYFUS. 1950. Paris: G. Doin & Cie. Illustrated. Pp. 146. Price Fr. F. 650.-

This little book has been written to demonstrate the use of biochemical thought to clinicians. Diseases of muscle, nephrosis, glycosuria, hypothyroidism, rickets, and the metabolism of iron and of certain amino-acids provide the text. The writing is lucid and the authors have achieved their aim.

Mitchell's Pediatrics and Pediatric Nursing. By R. A. LYON, M.D., and ELGIE M. WALLINGER, R.N., B.S., M.A. 1949. London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Co. 3rd Edit. Pp. 590. Price 19s.

The fascinating historical survey of the development in child care through the ages in the first chapter of this book serves to illustrate the diversity of information and wealth of interest it contains. It can be warmly recommended both as a ready reference and as a good means of revision for nurses preparing for examinations. It is written in a clear and readable style, and the subject matter is well arranged.