The information given is brought well up to date with just sufficient detail and some first-class tables and illustrations. Diagrams such as those showing the times of appearance, radiographically of ossification centres of bones, should be useful to more senior members of the paediatric team, while there are some excellent descriptions of practical aids, such as splints and nursing charts, for the less experienced nurse. There is a discussion of the psychological approach to the child and to the care of children in the community, with common-sense advice to the nurse who first starts caring for sick children.

Unfortunately the Americanisms in the text are at first disturbing and the detailed bibliography loses its value because it is entirely American. In spite of this, the book should prove a valuable addition to the limited choice of such literature at present available.


This copiously illustrated and attractively produced book suffers from lack of an index. The anatomy of the bronchial tree and various pathological appearances are considered in detail, but the book will probably be of more interest to the chest physician than to the paediatrician. Little consideration is given to the difficulties of getting satisfactory bronchograms in children. It is interesting to read that "as a rule children under 8 are given no anaesthetics at all."

BOOKS RECEIVED
(Review in a later issue is not precluded by notice here of books received in 1950)


FILM REVIEW


This film is based on Gesell's work and illustrates, for medical students, the development of locomotion in the human child.

A caption points out that the sequence of development is the same for all babies but that the rate varies. Some reflex movements, e.g., walking and reciprocal kicking, are present at birth and are lost before similar voluntary movements appear. As development of control starts in the head, head control is dealt with in some detail. How, as well as what, a child can do is important and is illustrated in reference to sitting. By 16 weeks the child lifts himself on his forearms, by 6 months he rolls over, by 9 months he crawls, and at 12 months he can walk on all fours. The second reel deals with development in the standing position: standing with help, walking, climbing stairs and so on culminating in a shot of a five-year-old doing a ballet dance.

The film is well photographed, with one or two exceptions. The planning and continuity is good though occasionally the cutting is untidy in that after doing his piece the child obviously looks at the camera. Some people curiously enough fail to see the point of the opening shot of a newborn lamb, already well advanced in locomotion skill, in contrast to the human baby. More reasonably the ballet sequence might be criticized as falling below the production standard of the rest. The captions are clear and helpful.

This is a well-planned, well-made film which will be useful in teaching medical students and any other group interested in children—nurses, nursery workers, and parents, actual and to be.