one area at a time and finish the campaign in that area, before moving on to the next. Publicity was otherwise too much in advance of the actual work and enthusiasm waned before vaccinations were done.

The latter part of the report deals with the campaign in different countries, and the whole volume is a reference book rather than a text book.


This is a report of the Conference held in Copenhagen in 1949 to review critically experience gained from mass vaccination campaigns in various countries.

It is full of useful information for anyone engaged on B.C.G. vaccination. Particularly valuable are the three sections by Ustvedt on the technique of tuberculin testing, local reactions to B.C.G., and tuberculous disease in vaccinated persons.


The book presents an outline of the growth and development of the normal child. The chapters include discussions on heredity, prenatal and postnatal environment, foetal growth and behaviour, foetal nutrition, normal physical measurements, including the use of the Wetzel grid, Fels composite sheet and other methods of assessing physical status, the development of organs, such as the heart, bone development, energy metabolism, nutrition and behavioural development. The authors have only attempted an outline of the subjects discussed, but supply useful references for further reading. There are many tables which will be of value to all concerned with child care.

The book is for the most part factually accurate and up to date. It pays much more attention to physical than to behavioural development. The development of behaviour is very sketchily covered, with a table of milestones for 4, 16, 28, 40 and 52 weeks; 15, 18, 24, 36, 48 and 60 months, with an insufficient definition of what is meant by the milestones mentioned. The book is essentially a presentation of facts, but there is not enough about their clinical application, about the normal variations which occur (except in the section on weight and height), and about the various factors which always have to be considered in the assessment of an individual child. The book would not help one much to decide whether an individual child is normal or not, but it does give a useful summary of facts which all concerned with children should know about their growth and development.


This annual is as convenient in size and as attractively produced as ever, and is an admirable guide to current paediatric thought and practice.

The subject matter consists of clear and objective summaries of those papers published during the previous 12 months which the editors thought worthy of abstracting. It is obvious that their problem has been not so much what to include as what to leave out, and the individual reader must judge for himself how successful they have been. The abstracted papers are grouped together into suitable chapters, to each of which there are a few introductory editorial paragraphs designed to summarize or reorientate the year's publications. As in previous years, there is a sprinkling of editorial comments throughout, which the reviewer sometimes find irritating and often better omitted.

It is unfortunate, now that paediatric publications in Europe and elsewhere are getting back to their prewar state, that more space is not given to them. Only about one-sixth of the volume deals with papers published outside the United States, and it is fair to suggest that in future the title might be changed to the 'Year Book of American Pediatrics'.


We welcome the sixth edition of this well known book. Like most of us, it has grown somewhat stouter with the years, but it is still portable, readable and reliable. The first edition was published in 1936, and was thus written in a different therapeutic era. The development of antibacterial substances for systemic administration has been associated with changes in the incidence, symptoms, signs, treatment, and prognosis of disease, and the author has re-written and re-edited his own work with these changes in mind. There have been other developments in paediatrics in the same period, and descriptions of several are included for the first time. Four vivid colour plates also enhance the attractions of this new edition.


It is difficult not to be influenced by the prejudice aroused against a book by consistently bad grammar and a phraseology so loose that the meaning is often uncertain. Many American authors use words and expressions differently from English writers, often to advantage, and just occasionally the author of this book uses a phrase which is pitiful and direct. Unfortunately most of the book is written in a style which suggests that it has been dictated in a hurry and never corrected, with references to other papers inserted with little regard for their critical value. An occasional misprint is to be expected, and there is a curious error on the first page of this book which would seem to be a misprint but which, such is the author's use of words, may even be intentional.

The book is well set out in that the various problems of allergy in childhood are given reasonable space and the theory, pathology, diagnostic procedures, treatment and particular diseases receive adequate consideration. The chapter on diagnostic procedures is fairly clear and useful, but the removal of 25 ml. of blood from children under the age of 3 years does not recommend itself as