

a method of choice in diagnosis. There is much elsewhere that would be of interest if the writing were more critical and if such surprising statements were not made so blandly and so often. The description of the pathology involves inflammation as an essential part of allergy, and such conditions as eosinophil granuloma and migraine are unquestioningly accepted as entirely allergic. The removal of septic foci by tonsillectomy and so on is strongly recommended for the cure of all sorts of allergic conditions, and an appendix of case histories, all with happy endings, helps to underline the value of this.

The loose writing and confused thinking manifested throughout so much of the book make it difficult to know when the author's opinion is of value, and consequently it is difficult to recommend the book for general reference or reading.

**La Talassemia.** By G. ASTALDI, P. TOLENTINO and C. SACCHETTI. 1951. Pavia: Biblioteca Haematologica. 69 text figures. Pp. 229. With English summary. Price Lira 2,500.

The monograph is divided into two sections. The first devotes chapters to the genetics of thalassaemia, the symptomatology and radiological findings, the peripheral blood picture, the bone marrow, morbid anatomy, the clinical and pathological forms of the disease in detail, and diagnosis, prognosis and treatment. The second section reports the researches of the authors, and details their experiments. Each chapter is profusely and well illustrated by photomicrographs and line graphs.

Throughout their treatise the authors divide the disease into three definite forms: *major*, occurring in the offspring of two affected parents, and synonymous with Cooley's anaemia; *minor* (or Rietti's disease) where the affected person is heterozygous yet shows the disease clinically; and *minima*, where the heterozygous individual has no clinical manifestation though the haematological picture is that of the minor form in a lesser degree. Stress is laid on the diagnostic facies seen in the major form. Their experimental work points to some factor closely connected with the biology of the erythron as the abnormality, this factor being intrinsic and producing increased red cell fragmentation. Lysis and phagocytosis are of minor importance, the plasma shows no abnormality, and the splenomegaly is entirely mechanical, resultant upon cell debris storage.

The references are numerous and cover the world literature, while the only criticism to be offered is that the reader is often lost in the wealth of detail offered.

**Psychiatrie Sociale de l'Enfant.** Edited by C. HOERSPERNIK. 1951. Paris: Le Centre International de l'Enfance. 11 text figures. Pp. 535. Price Fr. 2,500.

This is a nearly complete collection of the lectures given at a course in the social psychiatry of the child organized by the International Children's Centre and held in Paris and London from October 15 to December 15, 1950. Some 54 lecturers contribute 64 lectures, which should be read in the original by those interested in the subject.

### Great Ormond Street Journal

THE *Archives* is at the moment the only paediatric periodical in Great Britain, and with the increasing interest in paediatrics in general there must therefore surely be much work of great interest which at present does not get published. At Great Ormond Street, for example, the home of English paediatrics, a wide range of clinical and pathological investigations is constantly being undertaken and the results, both success and failures, should be made available to other workers.

It is fitting that the first extra journal to be published should come from Great Ormond Street. The Board of Management is to be congratulated on this courageous venture: all will wish it well.

The Journal is published by H. K. Lewis and Co., and costs 7s 6d. The appearance of future issues will be at approximately six-monthly intervals, but obviously in any 'Proceedings' such as these, the exact interval must vary.

In commending the journal to readers of the *Archives*, we wish it long life and success. It will be a worthy addition to lie beside the *Archives* in departmental libraries and will prove of value and interest to all paediatricians.

### International Paediatric Association

Professor G. Fanconi, secretary-general, has circulated the first annual report of this Association. Up to December, 1951, 26 member-associations had been accepted. A conference on abstracting was held in Zurich in October, 1951, and details of the recommendations were published in *Helvetica Paediatrica Acta*, 6, 5. The World Health Organization has recognized the I.P.A. as a 'non-governmental organization' in official relationship with W.H.O. and has consulted the I.P.A. on various topics. For example, an approach has been made regarding a study on under- and post-graduate education in paediatrics in European countries. Arrangements for the Seventh International Congress of Paediatrics (Cuba, October, 1953) are being discussed by the Executive Board, and it is hoped that some financial assistance may be available to help younger paediatricians to go to the congress.

### Thirteenth British Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

This will be held on July 8-11, 1952, in the University of Leeds.

The morning of Wednesday, July 9, is being reserved for a discussion on 'The Place of the Paediatrician in a Maternity Unit'. The opening speakers will be Prof. W. Gaisford and Mr. F. Stosler. The Committee would welcome the attendance of paediatricians in order to join in the discussion after the two opening speakers. Will those who might be interested to attend on this morning of the Congress please get in touch with the Secretary, the 13th British Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, the Hospital for Women, Coventry Place, Leeds, 2, and state whether they are prepared to speak?

Those who wish to attend the Congress only for this day will not be charged a fee. Those who wish to attend the full Congress will be charged the full registration fee.