

misprints are few. The illustrations, of which there are over 900 in the 601 figures, all in black and white, are excellently reproduced and contribute immensely to the merit of the book. It is to be regretted that the price has to be so high, but understandable in view of the abundance and excellence of the illustrations.

It is safe to say that this book will immediately be recognized as a classic, and that it will be a long time before a serious rival to it appears.

Foetal and Neonatal Pathology. By J. EDGAR MORISON. (Pp. 366; 59 figures. 50s.) London: Butterworth & Co. 1952.

This book is welcome because it is the first on this subject to be published in modern times in this country, and is a notable contribution to a branch of paediatrics and pathology on which few books are available in any language. The author has adopted, where possible, a physiological approach, and the first two parts of the book are devoted to discussion of those factors that may cause disturbance of prenatal life and development, or affect the adaptation of the newborn infant to independent life. This is admirably done, with critical assessment of the present state of knowledge, drawing a careful distinction between what is surely known and what is still largely speculative; and indicating the need for much fundamental research before many of the problems of 'perinatal' pathology can be solved. There is also a useful section on foetal and neonatal infection.

The descriptions of pathological conditions that may be found at necropsy are given a somewhat subordinate place. They are dispersed among much other matter in the text, and are sometimes too brief to be fully informative to a reader not already familiar with the conditions described. Most of the illustrations are diagrams and charts; only a minority are photographs of pathological material. For these reasons a young pathologist exploring this field as a learner may not always readily find what he needs to guide him as to what to look for in carrying out his necropsies and in the interpretation of what he finds. It is a book to be read right through, rather than used as a textbook of morphological pathology, and everyone interested in the subject will gain much by so reading it. A valuable feature is a large and well chosen bibliography, with important references indicated in heavy type.

Penicillin in Severe Otorhinolaryngological Complications.

A Symposium. By ROBERT LUND *et al.* Danish-Norwegian-Swedish Otolaryngological Joint Research. (Pp. 120. \$2.50.) Copenhagen: Ejnar Munksgaard. 1950.

The symposium collates the 421 reports collected over the course of one year (1948) from the E.N.T. Departments of the main hospitals of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, the basis of the reports being a questionnaire circularized by a centrally formed committee. Separate chapters by different Danish authors are devoted to the results of penicillin and sulphonamide (essentially sulphathiazole) therapy in the treatment of meningitis, labyrinthitis, cerebral abscesses, petrositis, osteomyelitis,

and thrombophlebitis, while the first deals with the bacteriological field and the final chapter lists the allergic and toxic effects encountered.

The results in general confirm the place of penicillin as a great advance in therapy. Though many of the chapters are clearly written, the weight of the evidence from the wealth of material is to a great extent offset by the poorness of the bacteriological control. Of the 421 cases collected, only 182 had bacteriological investigations made, and of these in only 24 (6%) was the sensitivity of the organism concerned determined. Thus many of the statements made in the chapter on bacteriology are not based upon the investigation, and are at considerable variance with those more generally accepted.

Specific Dyslexia (Congenital Word Blindness): A Clinical and Genetic Study. By BERTIL HALLGREN. Translated by ERICA ODELBERG. (Pp. 287. No price.) Copenhagen: Ejnar Munksgaard. 1950.

This study of 169 cases includes only 'specific' cases of reading difficulty, some seen at the Stockholm Child Guidance Clinic (122 cases), and the rest picked out of a special reading class in a secondary school in Stockholm. Children whose reading difficulty was secondary to emotional disturbance, general backwardness or other causes were excluded. Controls were supplied by non-dyslectic classmates. In the clinic material no child had an I.Q. lower than 80; one school child had an I.Q. of 65-69. Since school starts at the age of 7 and cases were not taken from classes lower than the second, presumably the ages would be around 9 years, and the investigation selected children seen over a period of just under 16 months. The overall estimated incidence for the general population is approximately 10%.

The study is mainly directed to disproving causes popularly associated with this condition, and in supporting the view that it is inherited.

The method of setting out this material is nothing if not detailed and painstaking but the translation is sometimes too literal to clarify the meaning. For example 'in [the author's] opinion, all the forementioned interpretations of the higher incidence of nervous disorders in the probands are plausible. It is, however, extremely difficult to determine the connexion in the individual case. This is especially because the symptoms can have a causal connexion even if it is non-existent.' 'Proband', a word which does not appear in the *New Oxford English Dictionary*, means by inference a case which is a subject in this enquiry.

The final conclusion is interesting. It has been clinically apparent for a long time that specific dyslexia may have a familial incidence. This enquiry goes into the genetic aspect, supported by very interesting family trees. The author's final positive conclusion states: 'The genetic-statistical analysis shows that specific dyslexia, with a high degree of probability, follows a monohybrid autosomal dominant mode of inheritance', going on to specify groups in which this is clearly demonstrated by her work.

The overall incidence is high compared with this country, thus throwing open queries as to criteria.