of the standard British textbook of diseases of children. For this Dr. Philip Evans joins Professor Moncrieff as editor in place of Dr. Donald Paterson, regrettably departed to Canada.

The growth of the subject of paediatrics is exemplified in this as well as in the other major textbooks by an increase in size and unfortunately in price. This trend was shown in the 1949 edition and shows no sign of abating. It is timely that the present edition should appear so soon after the other works, and the reader who is making up his mind to spend what is relatively a large sum on a paediatric textbook cannot now complain that his choice is restricted.

In 'G., B. and T.', as 'Diseases of Children' is usually known in this country the intending buyer will find all that is best in British paediatric practice attractively produced and edited to show a minimum of overlap. As is inevitable when there are 50 contributors, there is a certain amount of unevenness, and some sections, in spite of the lapse of only four years between this and the previous edition, are scarcely up to date. As long as textbooks are put on the market in a bound form, so long will much of their matter necessarily be copied from one edition to another, while the rapidly moving sections will be out-dated by the time they appear in print. There is much to be said for the loose-leaf system adopted recently by Debre and Lelong whereby those branches of paediatrics in which the more rapid advances are being made can be brought up to the minute by the re-writing of a small section of the book rather than a completely new edition.

'Diseases of Children' by Moncrieff and Evans contains some new chapters and shows evidence throughout of careful revision of practically all of them, and the book is worthy to hold its place not only by comparison with its previous editions but also with the various foreign works. It is likely to retain its place as the standard British paediatric textbook for many years to come.


The new editor of this popular Year Book, Dr. Sidney S. Gellis, is to be congratulated not only on maintaining the tradition set by his editorial predecessors, but on the vast amount of knowledge which has been condensed into such a small space.

What are regarded as advances—and here the editor has a most invidious task—are presented under the customary headings which will be familiar to readers of the previous editions. As usual, the abstracts are preponderantly from the American literature, there being some four American articles to every one from the rest of the world. This may be an index of the relative amounts of paper devoted to paediatrics by the different parts of the world, the editor's assessment of the relative value of the world's contributions to paediatric literature, or may simply represent the scope of his reading. As in previous years, many of the articles are followed by observations of selected commentators; and as is also customary, some of these are helpful, many are patronizing and others just naive. The value of the abstracts would not be reduced if these comments were omitted.


Sixteen contributors from nine different European countries combine to present this textbook on the practice of continental paediatrics. We in this country are used to British and American textbooks and the language difficulty has prevented many of us from being fully acquainted with continental practice. For this reason an English edition of Fanconi and Wallgren's textbook, edited by Dr. Collis with the help of the translator, Dr. Kawerau, will be welcome. The differences in British and Continental practice appear more those of detail than of principle, but paediatricians here will be glad to have available a book of reference by which to compare the two.

It is well-nigh impossible for one person to review the contents of a compendium such as this, particularly when the contributions by such well known workers in their own widely separated fields reach such a high standard. Suffice it to say that paediatricians wanting to know anything about anything will find it here. Misspellings and mispunctuation abound throughout the book, as do uniformly excellent illustrations, and the colour photographs reach a very high standard. Seven guineas is a lot to pay for a book, but in this one gets a lot for one's money.


This is not, as its title might suggest, an attack on the lunatic bureaucracy, but a readable account of psychiatry intended for the general practitioner. The intention is excellent for there are not enough psychiatrists to deal with all the neuroses and psychosomatic disorders, and most of these can be treated by doctors who are not specially trained.

Only the first two chapters are devoted to childhood and adolescence, but many mental troubles showing up in adult life have their roots in childhood, and this view recurs throughout the later chapters. Almost any paediatrician could spend an entertaining and useful evening browsing over the book, skipping the banal or turgid passages and enjoying those which stimulate or intrigue. Part of the pleasure would be anthropological; the American adolescent grows up so differently from our own that many of the statements cannot be applied directly to disorders of behaviour seen in the British way of life. The difference may be perceived in the illustrations. At first sight they look as though they might have been taken from an American comic strip or the humorous page of The Saturday Evening Post, yet they are true illustrations; they add light to the instruction given in the text, and if their secondary purpose is to catch the eye of the customer in the book shop, there's no great harm in that.