Lancet, 1950, 1, 53) on residual milk obtainable by expression after the infant has fed, is extraordinary.

Waller's figures (Arch. Dis. Childh., 21, 1) for daily amounts of milk secreted on each of the first 13 days after delivery by two groups of 100 primiparae and a third group of 100 multiparae are not noted although certain daily volumes estimated by multiplying one milking by five are given. In Waller's work the babies of the multiparae took on an average 9 oz. of milk on the fourth day. A mean figure of 32 oz. obtained (by expression) from seven women on the fourth day is quoted with details of each woman's yield. This might have received more discussion for, if the babies average 7 lb., this is 4½ oz. per lb. body weight on the fourth day of life. Yet on page 9, in dealing with Roderuck's findings on variation in volume of milk at different stages of lactation, the author suggests that manual expression tends to reduce milk flow in the lying-in period. Surely the explanation of the observation that the daily milk yield by expression, on five successive days at 70, 160 and 300 days of lactation, increased from the beginning to the end of the test period is that the increased demand (or better emptying) led to rapid increase of output. This explanation would have sprung to the author's mind if he had studied Budin (Budin, P.C., 1907, 'The Nursling'). Is it worth seeing 'a general tendency' in the yields obtained for three primiparae compared with three multiparae and is it 'safe to assume' that all the subjects in a home for unmarried mothers are primiparous? Some girls never learn.

There are many questions on which the author might have collected and criticized available information. Our practice in this field of medicine is largely by rule of thumb but there may be more information available than we know. For example, much public money is spent on cotton seed oil as a galactagogue. The author has collected evidence that increasing fluid intake does not increase milk output. Is this true about other reputed agents? Are prolactin preparations efficacious?

It may well be that the author has thought of the problem only from the dairy chemist's point of view, but the field worker is interested also in the efficiency of breast feeding by various nursing couples. Is the incidence of successful breast feeding for say, six months, correlated with the yield in the early days of lactation? Is the quality of good lactation transmitted by the male as in the bovine species?

Though it is not comprehensive, this is a useful book, well made and reasonably priced. We still need a book combining chemical knowledge with results known from dairy research and clinical observations on breast feeding in the human species.


In this monograph a clinician, a geneticist and a morbid anatomist join forces to describe and analyse a series of 116 cases of fibro-cystic disease of the pancreas seen at The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. They conclude that, far from being simply a pancreatic lesion, this is a pluriglandular disease genetically determined and characterized by the secretion of abnormal mucus. On this conception it is unlikely to be curable, but general supportive and anti-infective treatment has led to a much better survival rate than was seen a decade ago.

The biggest section of the book is devoted to a study of the morbid histology of the disease, and a wealth of tables and photomicrographs of an outstanding order illustrate and clarify the points made by the authors in a fashion that even the rustiest histologist cannot fail to appreciate. There are tables of biochemical findings and short summaries of all the cases, and the book ends with a short chapter on other pancreatic dysplasies.

It is desirable that from time to time apparently new or at least unrecognized conditions should be the subject of an authoritative description and discussion, and a warm welcome will be assured in paediatric circles for the present volume.


This is not—nor is it meant to be—a comprehensive and authoritative treatise on the subject of vomiting in babies. The author sets out to question certain generally accepted and often empirical views on the subject and to advocate more detailed clinical analysis and more frequent use of radiological investigation. Largely as a result of adopting such principles it has become possible of recent years to separate from the heterogeneous group of babies with vomiting of uncertain origin—often classified as habitual vomiting—certain clearly defined syndromes. Many of these are the result of specific anatomical defects. Commensurate with a better understanding of the underlying pathology a more rational and effective treatment has become possible. One such example is afforded by the partial thoracic stomach. This condition is well reviewed, although the method illustrated for propping up an infant seems, at first sight, to carry a possible risk of strangulation! By contrast, however, other affections, notably diaphragmatic hernia and intestinal obstructions, are discussed extremely sketchily and there would appear to be little merit for their inclusion in this book. Other subjects considered include pylorospasm, certain aspects relating to the aetiology and treatment of pyloric stenosis, duodenal obstruction and vomiting occasioned by the compression and displacement of the stomach secondary to a distended, gas-filled transverse colon. Many views expressed on treatment and aetiology are controversial but serve possibly to stimulate discussion. Radiographic illustrations are of variable quality.

Although there is an extensive bibliography its value is considerably reduced by the failure to include many references made in the text. These are often inaccurate and the spelling of authors' names frequently variable and incorrect.