

of the line drawings lack clarity but the radiographs are well reproduced and well chosen.

Advances in Pediatrics, Volume VI. Edited by S. Z. LEVINE. (Pp. 323; 58s.; \$7.00.) Chicago: The Year Book Publishers. Distributed in Great Britain by Interscience Publishers, Ltd. 1953.

It is as much a pleasure to welcome the sixth volume of this well-known series as its forerunners. It contains seven monographs by acknowledged authorities and each section can be taken as an up-to-the-minute summary of its subject.

The subjects dealt with in this volume are lymphosarcoma in childhood, an interesting excursion into preventive pre-natal paediatrics, intestinal obstruction in the neonatal period, haemolytic disease of the newborn, pulmonary pathology in the newborn, the lipidoses and megaloblastic anaemia of infancy. On each of these widely divergent topics the same high standard of thoroughness and clarity is maintained and no one could fail to read any of the sections with interest and profit. If one note of regret may be sounded it is that whereas in Volume V three of the six monographs were from Europe, in Volume VI only one out of seven is not a United States product. It is to be hoped that in future volumes of this valuable series a better geographical balance may obtain.

Pédiatrie. By ROBERT DEBRÉ and MARCEL LELONG, with the collaboration of STEPHANIE THIEFFRY and JEAN RIVRON and 36 others, 2 vols. (Pp. 2,234; Fr. Frs. 14,500.) Paris: Les Editions Médicales Flammarion. 1952.

This monumental work appears as one part of the 'collection medico-chirurgicale à revision annuelle' under the general direction of Professor Pasteur Vallery-Radot, and the loose-leaf system has been adopted. It will be realized that the production of a system of paediatrics within the framework of a complete system of medicine in which separate volumes are devoted, for instance, to infectious diseases, dermatology and the various organs, is an undertaking of the first magnitude. Not only have the contributions of some 40 authors to be fused into a composite whole in so far as it is possible to distil 'une âme, une mémoire, une pensée collective' from 40 paediatricians, but a watchful eye must be kept on other volumes in the larger series to avoid unnecessary repetition. In this formidable task Professors Debré and Lelong have been singularly successful, and the product of their labours is a scholarly and dignified work of reference which should prove a major landmark in the French paediatric literature. Admittedly some of the sections, for example, the one devoted to coprology, are reminiscent of an earlier epoch of paediatrics, when the physician would be accompanied on his ward round by a trolley containing specimens of every patient's stool, but it is perhaps a wholesome reminder that the doctor of today should still use all his faculties including his sense of

smell. The arrangement of the sections is also in some cases a little puzzling. Thus elementary generalizations on congenital diseases are followed by a section devoted to heat, cold, air and sun, and this in turn by a consideration of the allergic constitution. A short bibliography is appended to each section, and it may be felt that rather more references might usefully have been given in a work of this magnitude. Apart from these minor criticisms, however, the authors are to be congratulated on both the scope and content of these volumes. The illustrations are well chosen and well produced, though not profuse, and where radiographs of the chest are included, the admirable practice of appending a line diagram has been followed.

Child Psychotherapy. By S. R. Slavson. (Pp. 332; 30s.) Oxford University Press (London: Geoffrey Cumberlege). 1953.

Too few books have been written about the practice of psychotherapy for children, perhaps because of the rapid changes in technique which have developed in the last few years; perhaps also because psychotherapy with children must, to some extent, remain a personal relationship with a highly individual quality which is difficult to convey to a reader.

Among the newer techniques are those of group work, largely pioneered by the author of the work under review. For this reason it is disappointing that he devotes half the book to theories which are largely derived by him from Freudian analytic concepts. In places their description lacks the clarity of the original, and the tendency to introduce new terminology seems to add to this confusion.

It would have been of great value to learn more of the actual techniques of group therapy, although the author gives many references to others of his own works in this field. We are told that groups are made up of some children who are reckoned to be neutral within the group, while others are (p. 282) 'selected for the role of instigator in groups'. But we are not told how such selection is made, nor by whom.

It is evident that group therapy is not *faute de mieux* a way of dealing with a lengthy waiting list. It is a method of choice in certain cases, and one which places a high value on both the diagnostic and the therapeutic possibilities of social interaction. In spite of the neutral attitude so essential in the therapist, it is perhaps evident that the author is himself a vigorous and dynamic personality, and that his methods are particularly difficult to convey in a verbal account.

A Handbook on Diseases of Children. 7th edition. By BRUCE WILLIAMSON. (Pp. 467; 103 figures. 21s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1953.

The appearance of the seventh edition of this handbook only two years after the publication of the sixth, shows what a large demand there is for a textbook of paediatrics not too expensive for the student's pocket, and almost small enough to go in it.