

Antibiotics and Children's Diseases. (Pp. 298; illustrated. £3 3s.) Distributed for Le Centre International de l'Enfance, Paris, by Lange, Maxwell & Springer, London. 1952.

This publication is a collection of the papers read at a seminar on antibiotics organized in Paris in September, 1952, by the International Children's Centre. Fifty-four papers are included in full, the majority being concluded by a résumé of the discussion which followed each reading: 41 of the papers are written in French. The reports are grouped into four main sections: the action and use of antibiotics in pyogenic infections; the use of antibiotics in the treatment of tuberculosis; laboratory techniques and experimental work; and papers on the mode of action of the various antibiotics, their synergism and antagonism, and side-effects.

By the very nature of the seminar the views expressed are essentially personal and the results of the experience of the individual authors, but this collection forms an extremely valuable *vade mecum* for all who would seek guidance on the treatment of almost any disease in which antibiosis forms the main line of treatment.

Kinderärztliche Notfallfibel. 2nd edition. By B. DE RUDDER. (Pp. 164; DM. 13.50.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1953.

In this compendium, now appearing in its second edition, Professor de Rudder has produced a very useful 'aide' for both paediatrician and general practitioner on the medical and surgical emergencies of childhood. Each section is clearly set out under its appropriate headings, and incidence, pathology, diagnosis, prophylaxis and treatment are briefly discussed. It is to the author's credit that the reader easily gets a grasp of the essentials (both fundamental and practical) of each condition after reading the appropriate brief chapter. While respiratory catastrophes, septicaemia, coma, haemorrhagic syndromes, abdominal emergencies etc. are adequately discussed, one would like to see more space devoted to the chapter on poisoning.

This is a book which—if translated—would be a useful addition to the English literature.

Extrasystoles and Allied Arrhythmias. By DAVID SCHERF and ADOLF SCHOTT. (Pp. 531; 212 figures. £5 5s.) London: Heinemann. 1953.

Wenckebach in Vienna sowed the seed of this study which has come to fruition in London and New York after a generation. The book is learned, written in a plain easy style, and treats its subject mainly physiologically although history and clinical medicine are not stinted. The volume has been excellently turned out by the publishers and is nice to handle, but the practising paediatrician is unlikely to read it although he may use it for reference. If he wants to find out the incidence of extrasystoles in children he may consult a table with ten references (one to a paper in the *Archives of Disease in Childhood* by a member of the British Paediatric Association on page 457), and he may be interested to discover 'that extrasystoles in the foetus are not rare, that usually

they are auricular in origin, often blocked, and that as a rule they tend to disappear soon after delivery'.

The Radiology of Bones and Joints. An Introduction to the Study of Tumours and other Diseases of Bone. 5th edition. By JAMES F. BRAILSFORD. (Pp. 875; over 725 figures. 90s.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1953.

The fact that this book has reached its fifth edition in some 19 years in spite of the difficulties of publication and indeed of reading during the war period, is striking evidence as to its popularity. That it has met with this great demand is not really surprising when it is realized that it is the result of the author's 46 years of experience in a large and busy teaching hospital. During this time, also, the author has kept very closely in touch with the literature and has benefited from the writings of others. This is shown by the extremely large bibliography at the end of the book. Because of this, one would expect to find, as indeed one does, that it contains a wealth of material. It has been found necessary to extend the book over a hundred pages and to add a further hundred illustrations.

This edition follows the pattern of former editions, in that there are two complete sections, the first part being devoted to regional radiology and the second to abnormalities and pathology of bones and joints. There are, in effect, two books under the same cover. This is probably a virtue but it does give rise to some inherent difficulties of presentation. The first part deals with the various abnormalities as they occur in the different regions of the body. This approach necessarily leads to some reduplication which makes reading, in the sense of reading a textbook, somewhat trying, but used as a book of reference, which in fact it is, its value is very considerable. The illustrations in this section are well placed and closely follow the script. The second part is, really, a textbook on the radiology of bones and joints as distinct from a book of reference. The combination of the two sections in one volume means that the reader of the second section has constantly to refer back to illustrations occurring in the first part of the book and this can be indeed very irritating. This irritation might, to some extent, be alleviated by giving the number of the page on which the illustration occurs rather than the figure number.

In a work of this magnitude, however, these are very minor criticisms and there is no doubt that those who are interested in bone and joint pathology and the treatment of bone and joint diseases will be the poorer if they do not have it upon their shelves. As is to be expected of the House of Churchill, the whole production of this book is of very high quality, the paper is good, the type is pleasing and the illustrations are very well reproduced.

Advice to the Expectant Mother. 10th edition. By F. J. BROWNE. (Pp. 48; one figure. 1s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1953.

The tenth edition of this booklet has now appeared, and this in itself is a reflection of its deserved popularity. One particular criticism is the curious inclusion of a paragraph