
This book is a notable contribution to the early history of paediatrics. It is particularly welcome as making the amende honorable to the memory of a prophet too long without honour in his own country, George Armstrong, creator of the first hospital for sick children—who keen observer, brilliant writer and pioneer physician-philanthropist, who was blessed with the true scientific spirit and an almost prophetic outlook' (Prof. Foote, American Journal of Diseases of Children, May, 1918, p. 351). Although Sir George Still in 1931 referred to the opening of Armstrong's dispensary in 1769 as 'the most important step ever taken in this country towards the care of sick children' he had to admit that 'strangely enough we know little about him' (History of Paediatrics, Oxford, 1931, p. 416-17). Thanks to the patient and skilful biographical researches of the late Dr. W. J. Maloney we now know a great deal more, and his book gives us a fascinating picture of George Armstrong and his brother John and of the times in which they lived. The years following the Stuart rising of 1745 were difficult times indeed for all Scots in London, even for loyal Hanoverians like the Armstrongs, and the general background of racial hostility and ostracism, while giving added merit to their achievement, goes far to explain the subsequent effacement from the public mind of George's remarkable work for children. In these pages the author compels us to see just how great George Armstrong really was and how loyally he was supported by his forceful and picturesque elder brother.

As clinician, pathologist, writer and teacher George Armstrong was clearly breaking entirely new ground in the eighteenth century. Impressed by the desperate need he got his dispensary opened for the children of the poor, running it single-handed and financing it largely out of his own pocket. He laid down rules for the nursing of children, and from the outset he emphasized the importance of preventing illness by the instruction of mothers and by the educating of doctors. He had the support of many eminent folk both lay and professional, and the dispensary was in fact given some charitable support. The Royal College of Physicians, though denying Armstrong the official 'licence to practice', nevertheless appointed three senior Fellows to his committee and the work undoubtedly owed much to such recognition. The venture was so successful that in the 12 years of its existence the dispensary treated no fewer than 35,000 children. To it George Armstrong gave all he had in skill, health and money, and he died in poverty and obscurity and is buried none knows where. The sad truth is that his writings and teachings were flagrantly plagiarized and his reputation cruelly and most unjustifiably blemished. Dr. Maloney has lifted the veil of oblivion and at long last we can with him salute George Armstrong as the 'father of modern paediatrics'.

The book in itself is a tribute to the courage as well as the skill of the author, who incidentally was once a house physician at Great Ormond Street. The facts are given in a foreword by the Editor, F. N. L. Poynter, upon whom fell the task of final completion owing to Dr. Maloney's tragic death. The responsibility has been discharged in a manner beyond praise.


This well produced guide will be useful as giving an idea of what the film shows and of its background. The film was made in the course of research on the effects on personality of interruption of maternal care.

The film is presented as an objective record. When it is shown strong feelings are often aroused and this book emphasizes the usefulness of discussion after the projection. Without insisting on any specific conclusion being drawn, some of the points likely to arise in such discussion are noted: the present care of children in hospital and the possibility of modifications are also dealt with. The eight full page plates are well chosen to recall the film. There is a good bibliography about the care of children in hospital and reference to some other films.

This film provides an opportunity for nurses and doctors to watch the behaviour of a child in hospital when they are not themselves busy about the ward. Even if a small part of the commentary is inference rather than observation, the film, from the way it was taken, is a valuable objective record which should certainly be seen by all responsible for taking children into hospital. The book is a worthy complement to the film.


This little book has proved its worth to many students through three previous editions.

Infant feeding is still an art with few of its rules founded on a scientific basis. Practice is still largely based on tradition modified by experience and influenced by prejudice: it is, therefore, wise of the authors to keep this booklet conservative.

The final sections, which include a list of diseases leading to failure to thrive, and an appendix containing data on stages of development, are perhaps less satisfactory than other parts of the book.


This book covers extensively the differential diagnosis of auditory disorders in children. The chapters are attractively arranged, there being a short summary at the end of each, while a bibliography follows many sections. The subject matter is also attractively arranged, well written, and comprehensive. It is obviously the result of a careful study of many cases of deafness in childhood.

This book will appeal to those who are concerned mainly with paediatrics, child psychiatry, and oto-laryngology. It is perhaps a little advanced for the medical student, but the post-graduate student will find it an excellent reference manual.