

fact is realized, it will detract little from the very real value of these volumes.

It will always be impossible to produce a book with the whole of which everyone will agree. When a book is criticized, the fault may lie in the book or in the critic. This book is remarkably devoid of what American reviewers of British books rightly term 'quaint treatments'. There are a few, but very few. Few physicians will agree with the statement that phimosis causes hydro-nephrosis, masturbation or enuresis.

It is a pity that the common practice of giving diet sheets for normal children is perpetuated. Who really measures out 1 oz. of minced meat or fish and 2½ oz. of milk pudding for the 12- to 18-month-old child?

The weakest section of the book is that devoted to child psychiatry, neuroses and psychoneuroses. Who really believes that contraceptives may cause mental deficiency? That nail-biting is caused by worms, chronic dyspepsia or nasal catarrh? That enuresis should be treated by the removal of tonsils, by ultra-violet light, massage, tonics, a plain and unstimulating diet, the avoidance of bulky starch meals, a flannel binder round the loins, or an appliance for preventing the child sleeping on his back? That 'a baby with flatulence may smile during sleep'? That 'fidgeting habits' are due to decayed teeth, infected tonsils, enlarged glands, chronic nasopharyngeal catarrh, or conjunctivitis, or that it should be treated by arsenic, massage, ultra-violet light, or a mixture of hydrobromic acid and nux vomica?

On looking at the index no mention could be found of accidents or accident prevention: destructiveness, quarrelsomeness, jealousy, pleurodynia, frequency of micturition, normal puberty, abdominal pain, and, surely one of the commonest of all symptoms in children, poor appetite or anorexia in the well child due to forcing food on him. It would be useful if, in the next edition, those and other common symptoms in children were discussed in detail in sections of their own.

These criticisms concern a very small section of the book. They should certainly not deter anyone from buying it, for it contains very many first-class sections, and very little indeed of poor quality. Amongst many excellent sections, that of F. J. W. Miller and the late Sir James Spence on neonatal diseases is outstanding.

One very much hopes that the present editors will see to it that few years elapse before a third edition is published. It would be most regrettable if the book were allowed to lapse when it has reached such a very high standard. It is the reviewer's considered opinion that this book is a great credit to the Birmingham school, and that it will remain a fitting and brilliant tribute to its designer, Sir Leonard Parsons.

**Modern Mothercraft: A Guide to Parents.** Third edition. By HELEN DEEM and NORA P. FITZGIBBON. (Pp. 241. Price not stated.) Dunedin: Royal New Zealand Society for the Health of Women and Children. 1954.

This revised edition of a rightly popular handbook is notable because it records the abandoning of 'percentage feeding' in what was its country of origin. Milk

mixtures are now made stronger than the old 'equal parts' formula from the fourteenth day of life, and although even now undiluted milk is not allowed until the ninth month, the present step forward must be welcomed. The idea of 'humanized' milk has therefore been discarded. The rigidity of the older feeding programmes has also been modified by a somewhat grudging reference to self-demand feeding, but this apart there is in many sections a welcome modern outlook in many aspects of the mother-baby relationship. A section on prevention of accidents in the home is full of wise advice.

**Cystic Fibrosis of the Pancreas in Infants and Children.**

By CHARLES D. MAY. (Pp. 93; 16 figures. 21s. 6d.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1954.

This monograph follows on the heels of Bodian's *Fibrocystic Disease of the Pancreas* which it resembles in everything but size, price and number of illustrations. In a small space Dr. May has managed to condense all that is known about this very interesting condition, and if each separate disease needs its own handbook this will be most adequate for cystic fibrosis of the pancreas. No dogmatic standpoint is adopted concerning the aetiology of the disease and not all will agree with the author in dismissing so summarily the estimation of the anti-thrombin titre of the blood in diagnosis; yet the book must have been in the hands of the printers for a considerable time and presumably a second edition will amplify this point.

The monograph is beautifully printed and bound and must be almost the lightest medical book to be produced for years.

**Manuel Pratique de Vaccination par le B.C.G.** By R. MANDE; foreword by Robert Debré. (Pp. 200; 13 plates, 4 in colour. Fr. frs. 950.-) Published by Le Centre International de l'Enfance. Paris: Masson et Cie. 1954.

This little paper-backed book of 200 pages, the sixth monograph published by the International Children's Centre in Paris, is an excellent practical guide for anyone having to undertake B.C.G. vaccination in children because it is the outcome of the considerable personal experience of the author in the B.C.G. clinic associated with the Children's Centre.

The first six sections each concludes with a full summary of the main points discussed. The details of the various techniques are well set out, the complications are discussed, with suggestions as to prevention and treatment, and the importance of adequate follow-up is stressed. The vexed questions of the innocuousness of B.C.G. and exogenous tuberculous infection after vaccination are fully considered and, needless to say, Calmette is once again vindicated. The presentation, however, is fair and reasoned. The seventh and final section is a recapitulation of the essential practical principles and is clear and concise.

There is an admirable foreword by Professor Debré. Fourteen coloured and 26 monotone illustrations—all very well reproduced—add to the clarity of the work. The references, though few, are valuable and up-to-date.