BOOK REVIEWS


This is a reissue of the textbook of Debré and Lelong and a Recent Advances in Paediatrics, and as it deals with the whole picture of disease in childhood from causation to treatment the word pathologie in the title may be slightly misleading to the English eye. In spite of the size of the volumes, it is a comment on the growing bulk of paediatric knowledge that no subject is considered exhaustively but that the reader is led through the different illnesses with almost breathless speed. To anyone accustomed to the English textbook layout it is rather difficult to find one's way around these two books. First, the table of contents appears at the end of the volume and, secondly, only Volume II has an index, and this in places is sketchy.

It is still open to doubt whether reference books such as these should not appear in loose-leaf form so that sections may be brought up to date by the issue of a supplement as is the case with Debré and Lelong's Pédiatrie; and one cannot help wondering if there is in the French literature room for both Pathologie Infantile and Pédiatrie. The labour involved in bringing Pathologie Infantile up to date as new advances are made compares unfavourably with the simplicity of issuing new sections of Pédiatrie; and undoubtedly this latter method of avoiding the need for new editions must, in view of rising costs in every direction, be a major development of the near future.


This book presents a review of hare lip and cleft palate from almost every aspect, and is clearly the result of wide experience and study. The preliminary chapters on the anatomy and physiology of the palate and mechanism of oro-nasal closure lead on to a comprehensive review of the evolution of cleft palate surgery and the problems associated with feeding and speech, and finally with treatment.

The author has emphasized the importance of close cooperation between surgeon, orthodontist and speech therapist in these cases, and although this book is of essential interest to the professional speech therapist, it could be read with profit by all who are concerned with this difficult problem.


This is a pamphlet of 46 pages concerned with the diagnosis and disposal (including treatment) of children who in England would be called (in the terms of the Education Act of 1944) educationally subnormal and ineducable. The section on diagnosis is the shorter and less adequate, particularly in that it does not mention the problem of the differential diagnosis of defect and psychosis. The larger section (33 pages) describes the existing arrangements in some countries for dealing with such children, outlines what, in the opinion of the committee, are their principal needs, and discusses at length the best ways in which their needs can be met. The last section on the need for the coordination of the many services involved in the welfare of a mentally subnormal child is perhaps the most important. The report, which is very well written, should win the approval of all relevant workers. Its recommendations are clear and precise without being dogmatic. A valuable refresher course for all people concerned with children whether in medicine, education or the social services.


This monograph, with a foreword by Professor Fanconi, comes from the Kinderspital in Zurich, and this fact will ensure a good reception for it. The investigation and diagnosis of heart disease and heart malformation have advanced to paramount importance and it is from this standpoint that Dr. Rossi has written his book. A short introductory chapter on the normal infant's heart is followed by a rather potted consideration of all the congenital malformations one after the other. In the third chapter various types of myocarditis are considered and from these are separated a group called myocardoses in which infiltration of the heart is involved; in this chapter, too, endocardial fibro-elastosis is quite properly given consideration. Other chapters are on secondary involvement of the heart and on the medical treatment of cardiac insufficiency.

Throughout the monograph there are ample pictures and diagrams to illustrate precisely the author's points, and the various types of disease considered are enlarged by descriptions of his own cases. This book can be wholly recommended.


The title of this book is an understatement of the contents. The book opens with a glossary of some 70 terms in common use. In the next chapters the author takes the reader by the hand and introduces him to all the important terms in very simple language. The various mechanisms involved in fluid and electrolyte homeostasis are equally simply displayed and the results of disturbances of the normal equilibrium by disease discussed.

In the next section, repair solutions are described and their use in differing circumstances discussed. Chapters 7 to 13 then deal with individual problems, such as diarrhoea, diabetic coma, burns, surgical conditions, etc. In each chapter the same general formula is used—a description of the condition, the clinical manifestations, with one or more case reports, 'pathophysiology' (the fluid-electrolyte disturbance), laboratory findings, treatment. In dealing with laboratory findings all useful technical methods are discussed, not simply those relative