to water and electrolytes. Similarly in treatment, nearly as much space is given to general treatment of the condition as is given to the correction of the water-electrolyte disturbances. The final chapters are on techniques of blood taking and fluid administration.

This method of presentation has advantages if it is desired to look up the treatment of one condition, but it does entail much repetition. All through this book the emphasis is on the practical clinical aspects, and one can almost hear the author’s sigh of relief as he turns from the theoretical section to the clinical sections.

For a book of this size, there is very little to take exception to, and these few criticisms are only of minor points.


This book contains the first results of a longitudinal study of the development of children in post-war Germany. Centres in Frankfurt, Nuremberg, Stuttgart, Bonn, Remscheid and Grevenbroich have combined to collect and collate a vast amount of clinical material which this book presents and analyses. Less attention is paid to physical than to mental and psychological development and the thoroughness with which the data are worked out is admirable.

It is interesting to know that longitudinal studies, like those at present being undertaken in this country by the Child Study Centre, are bearing their fruits in other countries, and we can look forward to similar reports from these German trials in the future. Much of the present book is concerned with the methods employed in the study, and the authors will be able to contract subsequent monographs by omission of much of this section of the present book; this will reduce size without detracting from merit.

Thieme have maintained their expected standard of production.


Who does not sometimes envy his house physician on the grounds that H.P.s spend all their time doing ‘real’ medicine, unlike ourselves who spend so much time dealing with housing authorities, food officers, regional boards, enthusiastic but ill-informed laymen all too willing to help, headmasters all too unwilling to take deserving children? All very different from our vague memory of a clinical Garden of Eden without serpentine social problems.

Dr. Lewis’s book is very relevant to what the house officer of today knows to be ‘real’ medicine and to the common worries about the best management of children. It deals with the Merstham experimental reception centre for deserted, maladjusted, homeless, neglected children. Five hundred children were admitted there between 1947 and 1950, and their family background studies and their physical and mental health observed, so that the most suitable homes or schools could be chosen. The Curtis Committee suggested that all children received into care by a public authority should go to such a centre. In practice most of them are in public care because of temporary illness of a parent, but at least a third need the careful placing that only well-staffed and well-run placement centres can give.

The book tells of children who had repeatedly been returned to the authority from successive foster homes, more disturbed each time, and it was partly to avoid such malplacements that the Merstham Centre was started. Dr. Lewis has clearly established the value of such centres.

Dr. Lewis’s follow-up studies also contribute to our knowledge of the nature of the causes of behaviour disorders, for she confirms that in general parental rejection tends to lead to un-socialized, aggressive behaviour, while neglect leads to socialized delinquency and constraint tends to produce neurotic behaviour.

All children’s doctors should read at least the summary of Chapter 5 and the whole of Chapter 6 (General Reflections), and they should get their lady almoners to read these too. When a child’s needs be assessed without admission? When is a residential school a preferable placement to a foster home? These and other questions are discussed in a way that will help us to deal with these problems of present paediatrics and help us to understand how the child’s officer and other agencies are trying to help deprived children.


This monograph on paediatric anaesthesia is the latest in the series of American lectures in anaesthesiology. The views expressed are sound and the practising anaesthetist who does not encounter children very often in his daily work will obtain a great deal of practical help.

The main theme is safety, which is well illustrated by the recommended technique of open ether for bronchography and bronchoscopy. Although this technique does not avoid the explosion hazard, in the hands of the average doctor this is a calculated risk and is probably less than the dangers associated with other techniques. As well as covering most aspects of paediatric anaesthesia, there are sections on blood transfusion, oxygen therapy and asphyxia of the newborn, all of which are concise and factual. If there is a need in this country for a handbook on paediatric anaesthesia, this one fulfils the purpose adequately.


The difference in price between these two volumes must