

**Proceedings of the Third Medical Conference of Muscular Dystrophy Associations of America, Inc., New York, October 8 and 9, 1954.** (Pp. 324; illustrated.) Published by American Journal of Physical Medicine, New York.

The very American phenomenon of incorporated associations for the study of particular diseases is strange to us in this country, though its beginnings can be seen in parent associations for various handicapping conditions that are growing both in activity and influence.

The Third Medical Conference of the Muscular Dystrophy Associations of America, Inc., met in New York in October, 1954, and was treated to six symposia, four on the biochemistry and physiology of muscle and two dealing with the clinical and social aspects of the dystrophy problem—altogether some 38 papers and discussions which, previously published in the *American Journal of Physical Medicine* (vol. 35, February, 1955), are now collected into this impressive volume.

The papers are all of high standard, making, some of them, original contributions to the understanding of the physiology and biochemistry of muscle contraction, though some appear to be only remotely related to the main subject. To the clinician undoubtedly the most interesting papers are those dealing with the psychological and the social aspects of a steadily progressive condition such as muscular dystrophy. The special needs of such children, particularly in the realm of medical care, housing and schooling are not always recognized, and it is sometimes still difficult to persuade public authorities to accept any particular obligations towards them. There are, also, many questions of management and of psychological adjustment by both patient and parents, which can best be solved by group discussions. The banding together of parents, doctors, research and social workers undoubtedly not only fosters research into the disease but results in improved facilities for the proper care and education these children so badly need. The only doubt that arises lies in the contemplation of the competing interests of a multitude of associations for various handicaps, each committed to the interests of its own particular association.

**Hearing Therapy for Children.** By ALICE STRENG, WARING J. FITCH, LEROY D. HEDGECOCK, JAMES W. PHILLIPS and JAMES A. CARRELL. (Pp. 371; illustrated. \$6.75.) New York: Grune & Stratton. 1955.

This volume gives a full account of the problems of the deaf child. It is largely devoted to the investigation and management of the child for whom little can be done by medical or surgical intervention. There is, however, a short chapter on the conductive type of deafness, and remedial measures are outlined. Audiometry and its technique are described in detail. The methods of education of the deaf child are very fully covered.

Audiometric technicians and established teachers of the deaf will find the work most valuable. It will also appeal to paediatricians and otologists who have the

responsibility of directing the education of the child handicapped by deafness.

**Diseases of the Ear, Nose and Throat in Children.** By T. G. WILSON. (Pp. xii + 307; 145 figures. 70s.) London: William Heinemann. 1955.

This book confines its range specifically to the otolaryngological disorders of childhood. Much of the subject matter in some of these sections is devoted to anatomy, physiology, and function, and differs little from that already covered in standard textbooks; but throughout, the emphasis is upon the points of interest as regards the child, and the difference from adult anatomy and physiology. Congenital abnormalities are fully covered, and the inflammatory states are described with textbook completeness.

There is a chapter on the training and education of deaf children, and on speech defects. Each chapter is concluded by an extensive list of references. The work is beautifully produced with photographs and diagrams.

The author has written a book which will undoubtedly be of value to the general practitioner and the paediatrician. The otolaryngologist and paediatric surgeon will find it a useful source of reference.

**The Importance of Physiotherapy in the Treatment of Sick Children.** By J. M. JEWRY-HARBERT. (Pp. 84; illustrated. 10s. 6d.) London: Staples Press. 1955.

Physiotherapy in the treatment of sick children is a subject which is but little taught in the majority of training courses for physiotherapists, and in staffing a children's hospital it has been found that most of the new staff require some months of training in this specialized branch of physiotherapy after appointment before being able to treat the patients competently. Strenuous efforts have so far failed to persuade the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists to include a period of training at a children's hospital in their training courses, with appropriate examination questions thereon.

To make up for this lack of training of physiotherapists, Mrs. Jewry-Harbert, a former charge physiotherapist at Tadworth Court, the country branch of The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, has written this little handbook. It is a most valuable work for physiotherapists, particularly in the clear way the author describes the physiotherapist's approach to the sick child and in the details of the techniques, especially those of the baby exercises used at Great Ormond Street. There are one or two minor technical inaccuracies on the medical side; for example, she states (a) that the Denis Browne talipes splints are padded whereas it is the foot which has the pads stuck on to it, and (b) that the splints are applied with a flannel bandage, whereas sticking plaster is used from the beginning—but it is felt that these are relatively unimportant as regards the main purpose of the book.

For physiotherapists who have not had training in children's work this handbook should meet a real need.