Modern Methods of Feeding in Infancy and Childhood,
10th ed. By DONALD PATTERSON and GEORGE NEWNS.

It is usually said that textbooks are at least five years
behind the most recent advances in any subject. This
book remedies that situation as far as infant feeding is
concerned. It is a clear, concise account of the present-
day ideas on the subject, and gives precise instructions,
advocating the more liberal feeding advised to-day. If
amongst doctors and nurses there are still some who fear
overfeeding, or worry about slight variations in composi-
tion, this book will help to remove their doubts. It will
support mothers who, I suspect, often felt that the
rigid schedules of the past were wrong.

It contains a wealth of factual information mainly
in the form of tables, and reflects the mature opinion of
two experienced and widely read clinicians, retaining
only those ideas of the past which have stood the test of
time, without advocating doctrines not yet fully accepted.
It discusses difficulties likely to be met and their manage-
ment. One or two subjects perhaps might have been
more fully discussed, such as 'rooming-in' and 'demand
-feeding', and a minor criticism of the later chapters
on such subjects as prematurity, diarrhoea, vomiting and
constipation is that they are perhaps not detailed enough
for doctors, yet too detailed for mothers. These,
however, form a comparatively minor section of this
excellent book which has some valuable diets and sug-
gestions for feeding infants and children suffering from
conditions requiring special food such as coeliac disease,
obesity, etc. The book is well indexed and the numerous
references are listed and because of its style is likely to
have a wide appeal. It should be read by all who are
concerned with infant feeding and it should find a place
in the library of every hospital, welfare clinic and doctor,
especially at the reasonable price at which it is published.

Congenital Syphilis: A Follow-up Study with Reference
to Mental Abnormalities. By BERTIL HALLGRÉN AND
EINAR HOLLSTROM. Acta psychiatrica et neurologica
scandinavica, Supplementum 93. Copenhagen:
Munksgaard. 1954.

The authors present a detailed account of their attempt
to estimate the incidence of mental abnormalities in
500 children with congenital syphilis admitted to 'The
Little Home' in Stockholm since December, 1900.

Their findings confirm those of previous workers in
demonstrating that there is an abnormally high incidence
of mental deficiency, mental subnormality and behaviour
- disorders in these subjects; that these abnormalities are
more frequently due to environmental and hereditary
factors than to syphilis; but that in some cases syphilitic
involvement of the nervous system is directly responsible
for mental deficiency.

The material is carefully considered and although the
difficulties inherent in this type of investigation militate
against clear-cut results, there is much that is of interest
in this monograph.

Lehrbuch der Tuberkulose des Kindes und des Jugendlichen.

This textbook of tuberculosis in childhood sets out to
cover every aspect of the disease and, in very large
measure, succeeds in its endeavour. In eight sections
containing 30 chapters and almost 500 pages the subject
is dealt with systematic thoroughness and a vast wealth
of detail. Sections are so arranged that each broad
aspect of the disease is separately considered, so that
whilst section 2 deals with the primary complex and its
complications, section 4 with widespread tubercle and
section 5 with the tertiary phase, differential diagnosis in
section 6 and treatment in section 8, each deal with all
forms of the disease. This type of arrangement gives the
book an academic, at times unrealistic, flavour, perhaps
unavoidable, which is the sacrifice which has been paid
for the sake of quality and comprehensive detail.

The author's passion for the latter is illustrated by his
paragraphs on the influence on tuberculosis exerted by
the weather and by nutrition, to take two examples. He
becomes involved in rather facile expositions of the
biological value of the structure of proteins on the one
hand, and on the other of the structure of cold and warm
fronts. These criticisms are minor ones only, and are
more than offset by the massive erudition that makes
this book invaluable as a reference and teaching manual.

A major omission, and a more important criticism, is
the absence of any section or chapter on the social
aspects of tuberculosis. Only here and there in the text are
there occasional comments and figures indicating that the
author is concerned with the impact that the disease
makes on the community, on its cost in ill-health and
unhappiness as well as in lives, and perhaps above all
on the changing pattern of the disease under the impact
of improved social conditions, antibiotics and active
immunization.

This second volume has been largely rewritten, and is
luxuriously produced, profusely illustrated, clearly
printed in easy German, contains many references at the
end of each chapter and there is a reasonable index.

Paediatrics—Supplement, 1956. Edited by W. GAIMSORD
and R. LIGHTWOOD. (Pp. v+115+Index: 19 figures.
32s. 6d.; £14 10s. complete work.) London: Butter-
worth. 1956.

When Paediatrics for the Practitioner appeared we
were promised that we would be kept up to date with
advances in children's medicine, and this present volume
keeps that editorial promise. The volume contains an
article on the physical changes of puberty by Lorimer
Dodds and a monograph by A. W. Woodruff on the
care of children in the tropics. There are also 18 pages
called 'Noter-up'. This not very elegant word after due
research was found to denote in fewer letters a 'bringer-
up-to-dater'. Much useful information on such sub-
jects as lead poisoning, leukaemia and the antibiotics
are contained in this section. To use the book properly now
the subject should be read in the main volumes and the
'Noter-up' consulted for any really recent advances.
This first supplement of Paediatrics concludes with 10
more pages of index.