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 composition, 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 management. 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 premature, diarhoea, 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 suggestions 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.


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.