Modern Methods of Feeding in Infancy and Childhood,  
10th ed. By DONALD PATTERSON and GEORGE NEWNS.  
(Pp. ix+188; illustrated. 15s.) London: Constable.  
1956.

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 com-  
position, 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  
outstanding 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 BERTEL HALLGREN and  
EINAR HOLLMSTRÖM. Acta psychiatr. 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  
actors 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 endeavours. 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  
whilst section 2 deals with the primary complex and its  
complications, section 4 with widespread tubercule 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  
avoidable, 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. Gaisford  
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.