BOOK REVIEWS

caught the eye of the writer, struck by the increasing proportion of psychological disorders in out-patients at a children’s hospital, was the information that of men discharged from the army for medical reasons, one-third were for psychiatric disorders. ‘Veterinary medicine in relation to human medicine’ includes information, to give some random examples, on salmonella infection in day-old turkey chicks and in sheep and abortion in shepherd’s wives, the prevalence of leptospirosis in man, domestic and wild animals in Malaya and the spread of rabies in Europe.

Altogether the Annual has maintained its high standards, but here is one suggestion to the eminent editors. Since many will use the volume to find references to original articles, their task would be lightened if the references given at the end of each section included the author’s names in alphabetical order, and even perhaps titles of articles.


This book is a very comprehensive study of tuberculosis in France. Although it claims to be about primary tuberculosis, it inevitably deals to a certain extent with the more serious forms of the disease, particularly as it affects adolescents and young adults. The book covers epidemiology, diagnosis, diagnostic tests, radiology, bronchoscopy and treatment.

There is an interesting chapter on the relationship between infection and resistance, and the author pleads for more world-wide research on these lines. He also includes a long chapter on the psychological aspect of tuberculosis, and of the part that different temperaments play in causing people to succumb to the infection. A seven-year follow-up by Juteau of 175 cases of primary tuberculosis is included. It is interesting to notice that the author includes eight authentic cases of infection occurring after very short contact.

In the section on treatment there is full discussion on the use of antibiotics and cortisone, but Professor Debré’s practice of giving drugs to any child who becomes tuberculin positive is evidently not universally accepted in France, and indeed Tissot says many French chest physicians reserve judgment on this matter.

The chapter on surgery in primary disease is very short and the least satisfactory section in the book, which ends with a short chapter on B.C.G.; this, the author feels, is a safe and efficacious procedure, particularly with all the evidence in its favour from mass campaigns since the war.

One gains the impression on reading the book that the French regard primary tuberculosis more seriously than do many chest physicians in this country.


This monograph honours the 70th birthday of Professor Rominger. A brief section on general considerations is followed by a study of the use of A.C.T.H. and cortisone and the newer derivatives of cortisone in therapy. The rheumatic conditions, allergies, blood diseases, tumours, kidney affections, endocrine upsets, acute infections, tuberculosis and sarcoidosis are all discussed. The biochemical problems of prematurity and infancy are mentioned, as are some surgical conditions.

Had this monograph been somewhat longer the literature could have been more fully covered; had it not tried to deal with so many subjects in such a short space it might have dealt more thoroughly with some one or other part of its subject matter. As it is, the little bit of everything included necessitates a very cursory examination of the many problems involved and it is difficult to know to whom the book should be recommended.


The first edition of this book on haematology was published in 1952 and the advances in this subject have necessitated a further edition after only four years. Having no better insight into the Polish language than knowing the equivalent for ‘Good Health’, it is difficult for the reviewer to look critically at the text. The colour pictures in this atlas, however, are of a high order and faultlessness of reproduction which makes their contemplation easy and their consultation profitable. The words used in the legends to the pictures are so similar in shape to those to which one is accustomed that, as far as the pictures are concerned, ignorance of the language is of little hindrance.

This book is obviously of much practical interest and could be used for reference and for teaching; the colour pictures are so good, indeed, that it would be nice to know if the text comes up to their standard.


Professor Adam, who in the early 1920s was the first to suggest that certain types of Escherichia coli were responsible for epidemic infantile gastro-enteritis, has collaborated with nine authors, each of whom is well recognized as expert in the particular aspect of infantile gastro-enteritis. The book they have produced on this subject is an extensive and comprehensive study and should be a useful reference volume.

The antigenic classification of the specific serological types of E. coli is described in detail: the biochemical reactions of the different H antigenic variants of the various serotypes is given, and it is suggested that some of Adam’s biotypes were strains of the specific serotypes that are now recognized, although their identity cannot be proved as none of Adam’s original cultures has been saved. There is a detailed description of techniques used in Germany for isolating and identifying these serotypes of E. coli.

A short chapter deals with the enteritis due to Salmonellae and Shigellae; most of the infections occurred
amongst those over the age of 5; the heaviest mortality being amongst infants; a description is given of the exudate found in the faeces of a case of dysentery, but there is no mention of how often a similar exudate is found in a salmonella infection.

A very comprehensive chapter contains valuable material and observations on epidemiology of these *E. coli* infections and analyses the work for and against their being the cause of epiphenics; there is a review of epidemiological investigations in which the H and the phage typing were employed. As so often happens when many articles are abstracted and described in a small space, some parts of this chapter are not as detailed as might be desirable, and this can confuse the reader. However, the references are accurate and doubtful statements were clarified when the original articles were consulted.

An extremely valuable chapter on the morbid anatomy at necropsy is based on the personal observations of G. Ilgner, who had access to material which is rarely obtained in England, as all of it was fixed within a very few hours of death.

One chapter deals exhaustively with the problems of protein and carbohydrate metabolism and the experiments on amino-acid metabolism are particularly interesting. The formation of biogenic amines is said to be caused by deamination of amino-acids instead of decarboxylation and a few of the references are not listed, which can be irritating; another curious mistake is the description of Aristophanes as a philosopher and attributing to him a saying of Heraclitos.

Adam’s own contribution is on the pathogenesis, treatment and clinical presentation of gastro-enteritis, the last of which he explains on anatomical and biochemical findings; he feels that parenteral infections cause some cases, basing part of his argument on what might be a dangerous foundation, that is on negative bacteriological results. In this comprehensive chapter there are details of some types of enteritis seldom, if ever, seen in England, including enteritis necroticans due to *Clostridium welchii*.

The possible paths by which infection can be spread and many techniques to make the manoeuvres for admitting, nursing and handling babies safe, are fully discussed. Although many of the methods are widely used, few now practice a ‘napkin round’ and many would object to the use of a 1½ % solution of formaldehyde for washing floors.

**Ninth International Congress of Paediatrics**

The Ninth International Congress of Paediatrics will be held in Montreal, Canada, from Friday, July 19 to Thursday, July 25, 1957, under the chairmanship of Dr. Alan Ross, Professor of Paediatrics, the Montreal Children’s Hospital, Montreal 25, Canada.

**British Paediatric Association Memorandum on the Use of Radio-iodine in Paediatrics**

In 1956 the British Paediatric Association set up a sub-committee to consider the use of radioactive iodine in paediatrics in relation to possible carcinogenic effects. Its members sought advice from Dr. E. E. Pochin, of University College Hospital, and Dr. L. F. Lamerton, of the Physics Department, Institute of Cancer Research, Royal Cancer Hospital, who presented the data and explained the calculations on which the following conclusions are based.

1. That no form of radio-iodine should be used to treat an over-active gland in a child and that therefore the use of radio-iodine for the therapy of thyrotoxicosis did not require discussion.

2. That there appeared to be increased vulnerability to the late effects of external γ-irradiation with doses of the order of 250 rps, or more, at least up to the age of 6 years, and that there was no evidence of the age at which vulnerability decreased to the adult level.

3. That it was not possible to feel sure that test doses of 131I as low as 1μc might not be hazardous in children.

4. That, bearing in mind that the half-life of 131I was 192 hours and of 132I 2-3 hours, 131I was not likely to be hazardous in test doses of about 4μc, a dose which is adequate for the usual tests which are completed within the first four to six hours, but not for those requiring longer times.

5. That 131I should not be used in children when the employment of 133I would give the information which is needed. In the calculations leading to this conclusion several ‘safety factors’ are involved which make it doubtful whether any harm will actually result from the use of small doses of 131I, and it must be left to the individual paediatrician to decide whether its use is justifiable in the investigation of any specific clinical problem.

(Signed) D. V. HUBBLE

J. H. HUTCHISON

P. R. EVANS

**Correction**

We regret that in the paper entitled ‘Oesophageal Reconstruction in Children Using Intrathoracic Colon’ by Charles D. Sherman and David Waterston (Archives of Disease in Childhood, 32, 11) the source of the paper as stated was incorrect; this should have read ‘From the Department of Surgery, University of Rochester, New York, and The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London’.