

interest in showing some reconciliation of American and British views on this important subject but there is still a long way to go. Dr. Caffey regards chaliasia as the principal cause of haematemesis in infants, whereas workers in this country doubt the existence of chaliasia as an entity, but believe that children in whom this diagnosis is made have, in reality, a hiatus hernia.

Hirschsprung's disease is a term not used in the book, but the section on aganglionic megacolon is an adequate summary of present knowledge of this disease with one important exception. There is no mention of the necessity, if diagnosis is to be reliable, for carrying out the barium enema examination at a time when the child has not been having bowel wash-outs. Moreover, if this simple precaution is observed, a correct diagnosis of Hirschsprung's disease can nearly always be made with confidence in the first few days or weeks of life, although Dr. Caffey seems to think it is not possible to make the diagnosis radiologically during the neonatal period.

Criticisms can always be made of any medical textbook, particularly those of omission. Dr. Caffey's book contains a wealth of information clearly and pleasingly put forward. It must be one of the best standard works on any medical subject. It is most strongly recommended and should be available to all paediatricians and all radiologists.

Essentials of Paediatrics for Nurses. By I. KESSEL. (Pp. 204+Index; illustrated. 21s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1957.

This book is produced on good paper, has many very excellent illustrations, is well bound and has the additional advantage of an attractive paper cover. The information it contains is never inaccurate but is at times vague and at others outside the scope and understanding of the generality of nurses; scientific terms are often inadequately defined, and the general description of many conditions bewildering. The illustrations, though well done, are for the most part chosen for rarity rather than teaching value. For instance, of the nine illustrations in the chapter on 'Disorders of the Alimentary Tract' one relates to a swallowed coin, two to oesophageal atresia, three to hiatus hernia and three to trichobezoar. It is doubtful whether nurses in training will find in this book adequate answers to their numerous questions on the medical aspects of their work.

A Textbook on the Nursing and Diseases of Sick Children for Nurses, 6th ed. By various authors. Edited by ALAN MONCRIEFF and A. P. NORMAN. (Pp. xvi+777; 146 figures. 50s.) London: H. K. Lewis. 1957.

The current controversy as to whether nurses should be taught more or less medicine has not yet been settled, but the nursing of children is so important that it would be contrary to the interests of the patients to neglect the fundamentals necessary to understand why the child is ill. These fundamentals are concisely and lucidly explained in this book, which has reached its 6th edition.

As before, it is the work of a team of contributors from The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, and represents the practice of that hospital.

The first third of the text describes nursing and general considerations: it includes chapters on the normal child, preventive medicine and care of the ill child at home. The rest of the book considers feeding and the diseases both medical and surgical affecting children.

The descriptions are clearly set out and although rare conditions are mentioned briefly, the emphasis is on the maladies most commonly encountered.

The illustrations are well chosen, and the whole volume has been extensively revised, while new chapters have been added, bringing it up to date.

It maintains the high standard of previous editions, and can be recommended as the best text of its kind in this country.

Advances in Pediatrics, Vol. IX. Edited by S. Z. LEVINE. (Pp. 336. 68s.) London: Interscience Publishers; Chicago: Year Book Publishers. 1957.

This latest volume of *Advances in Pediatrics* contains the usual seven authoritative monographs written by people who have distinguished themselves in the field of which they write. The subjects are post-maturity by Stewart Clifford, the gamma globulins by Janeway and Gitlin, thyroid disorders by Reilly, familial dysautonomia by Conrad Riley, the use of fluoride compounds in the prevention of dental caries by Edward R. Schlesinger and David B. Ast, coagulation disorders in infancy and childhood by Schulman and Carl Smith—all these from the United States—and coeliac disease by the Dutch workers Weijers, Van De Kamer and Dicke. It will be seen at a glance that there is something here for every sort of paediatrician, indeed it might be said that everything in the volume is for every sort of paediatrician. The bones of their subjects are laid bare by the writers in a masterly fashion and with deceptive simplicity, so that those reading the book will have no excuse for not being thoroughly on top of at least seven paediatric subjects.

It would be difficult, and indeed invidious, to single out any one of these articles for especial comment; there is something for the clinician, the neurologist, the nutritionist, the biochemist, the endocrinologist, the haematologist and those interested in preventive dentistry and perinatal morbidity. What more could be gathered together in one so small volume?

Pre- and Postoperative Care in the Pediatric Surgical Patient. By WILLIAM B. KIESEWETTER. (Pp. 347; 49 figures. 52s., \$7.00.) Chicago: Year Book Publishers; distributed in the U.K. by Interscience Publishers. 1956.

This small book has been written by 16 contributors from the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and has been 'written with the occasional paediatric surgeon in mind'. The outline form adopted for ease of reference gives little pleasure to the reader. Ease of reference is not obtained by the inclusion of funnel chest, thyroglossal cysts and lateral cervical cysts and fistulae in the chapters headed 'abdominal'. It is surprising to find no reference to intestinal obstruction in the index and the occasional paediatric surgeon is expected to know the exact cause