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 chalasia as the
principal cause of haematemesis in infants, whereas
workers in this country doubt the existence of chalasia 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.

Criticism can always be made of any medical textbook,
particularly those of omission. Dr. Caffey's book con-
tains 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. Kesel.
(Pp. 204+Index; illustrated. 21s.) Edinburgh and

This book is produced on good paper, has many very
good 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;

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.

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 dysauto-
nomia 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 special 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. Kieswetter.
(Pp. 347; 49 figures. 52s., $7.00.) Chicago: Year Book Publishers;

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
of the obstruction in order to learn the pre-operative care.
Again, the adoption of alphabetical arrangement of
subjects in the thoracic chapter means jumping from one
system to another. It would have been better if the
lesions had been grouped under headings such as the
diaphragm, trachea and lungs, heart and great vessels and
oesophagus.
Apart from criticisms of arrangement the book has
some value for surgeons who are faced only occasionally
with the surgical treatment of the infant and child, while
it will also be useful to house surgeons as a manual of pre-
and post-operative treatment.

Pathologie und Klinik der Cytomegalie. By GERHARD
Seifert and JOHANNES OEHME. (Pp. viii + 120; 47
Cytomegalic inclusion disease was discovered in
1881 by Ribbert, and although Farber and Wollbach
stressed the frequency of symptomless cytomegalic
inclusions in duct-cells of salivary glands and their
similarity to those found in a disease of rodents it is only
in recent years that a more general interest in this disorder
has been shown. The reasons are to be found in several
reports on the generalized form of the disease, the
possibility of confusion with haemolytic disease of the
newborn and in the remarkable syntropy with other
diseases, such as pneumocystis-pneumonia. The present
monograph is the result of several years' collaboration
of a pathologist and a paediatrician. It is based on a
detailed study of 83 personal cases and a review of 173
described in the literature, in addition to 20 observed in
adults. Morphology, histochemistry and localization in
individual organs are well described. The description
of neonatal inclusion hepatitis deserves special mention.
In the following chapters the clinical symptomatology and
differential diagnosis are discussed. Here the description
of a collector for the parotid secretion should prove
useful. The differential diagnosis from haemolytic
disease of the newborn, toxoplasmosis, listeriosis and
syphilis is given in the form of a table. The confusing
nomenclature of encephalitis in cytomegalic inclusion
disease on one hand and inclusion encephalitis on the
other is rightly stressed. The isolation of the virus by
Smith and by Weller and its propagation in human
fibroblast cultures are recorded and the curious fact
mentioned that in these cultures only intranuclear and
no cytoplasmic inclusions were seen. The paper, print
and illustrations of the book are faultless.

Pica. By MARCIA COOPER. (Pp. viii + 114, 27s. 6d.)
Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications; Springfield,
Paediatricians see occasional children with the strange
habit of eating dirt but the author of this monograph
reports that over one-fifth of pre-school children attending
a welfare centre associated with the Johns Hopkins
Hospital are thus afflicted. She finds it associated with
'hyponutrition' and of course it carries a high risk of lead
poisoning. Her studies roam back into history and
widely into veterinary matters, anthropology and soil
chemistry. The book will tell the reader everything he
is ever likely to want to know about pica except what to
do about it, and the word 'treatment' does not appear
in the index. The price is high, and a slightly pretentious
list of publication details includes the fact that the type
page is '23 × 37 picas'.

Soranus' Gynecology. Translated by OWSEI TEMKIN.
With the assistance of Nicholson J. Eastman, Ludwig
Edelstein and Alan F. Guttmacher. (Pp. xlii+258.
40s.) Johns Hopkins Press (London: Cumberlege).
1956.
The late publication on matters of medical histo-
rical interest seems to indicate that the more rapidly we
go forward in the conquest of disease, the more willing we
are to look back upon the foundations of modern medical
knowledge and practice.
This is the first complete English translation of
'Soranus' Gynecology'. It has been based on Ilberg's
Greek text by a group of Americans led by Drs. Temkin,
Eastman, Edelstein and Guttmacher and was started in
the 1930s but, because of the second world war, it has
only recently been completed.
Soranus practised medicine in Rome in the early second
century A.D. He wrote nearly 20 works on a wide
range of subjects of which his Gynecology is by far the
most important. It is divided into four books which deal
with normal and abnormal gynaecology and midwifery,
but Book II contains 46 pages concerned solely with the
care of the newborn and is, therefore, the most interesting
section for paediatricians. Indeed, it sets the standard for
all writings on mothercraft for the next 1,500 years and
some of the ideas set down by him survive to this day,
wheras others, such as the salting of the newborn and the
technique of swaddling, have mainly been discarded.
Some, having been eclipsed, are now in vogue again for
Soranus recommended that in most cases the newborn
should be allowed to rest and 'abstain from all food up to
as long as two days... unless the appetite indicate an
earlier time'. Perhaps the famous nail test for assessing
the quality of breast milk, which was copied from book
to book until the end of the eighteenth century, will become
popular again now that science has defined the wide range
of composition of milk from different mothers.
The modern reader will find much of interest throughout
the whole book. The lucidity and the easy flow of the
text are a tribute to the translators, and the abundant
common sense repeatedly expressed throughout the work
is clear support for Soranus' reputation as the most
learned medical writer of antiquity.

Mental Health and Education in Hong Kong. By K. E.
PRIESTLEY and BERYL R. WRIGHT. (Pp. 97. 7s. 6d.)
Hong Kong University Press (London: Cumberlege).
1956.
These six lectures, followed by a report of the subse-
quent group discussions, were given by the Professor of
Education and the Lecturer in Educational Psychology in

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