

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 figures. DM 19.60.) Leipzig: Georg Thieme. 1957. 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, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1957.

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. xlix+258. 40s.) Johns Hopkins Press (London: Cumberlege). 1956.

The spate of publications on matters of medical historical 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 set 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, whereas 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 subsequent group discussions, were given by the Professor of Education and the Lecturer in Educational Psychology in