

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

the University of Hong Kong; they describe the way the problem of mental health, with particular reference to child guidance and the establishment of a clinic, is being tackled in circumstances other than our own. In an informative and interesting manner it describes these circumstances, and helps to remind us how relative our concepts are, particularly those concerning normality.

The wide range of individual differences existing within the range of normality is well emphasized by Miss Wright; however, she might also have included the important point that research has shown us that many of the so-called abnormalities of children are only apparent and pass with increasing age. Her assertion that maternal deprivation necessarily results in permanent personality damage is not valid, and there is now further evidence showing that the dangers have been overstated in the past.

Professor Priestley rightly stresses the scientific approach to mental health and the need for research, though this is not compatible with Miss Wright's subjective observations, for they require much more rigorous verification than the comments of parents and teachers which she suggests; scientific psychology aims at description and explanation, common-sense psychology seeks to understand. That the 'West may have a great deal to learn from the East' is certainly true.

#### **Changes in Body Water Compartments During Growth.**

By BENT FRIIS-HANSEN. (Pp. 68; 12 figures, 21 tables. Dan. Cr. 25.00.) Copenhagen: Ejnar Munksgaard. 1956.

This is a monograph of some 67 pages in which the author reports a study of the total body water and the extracellular body water, intracellular water being calculated by difference. He has used, as material, 93 subjects varying in age from birth to 16 years.

In the first chapter, after a short but interesting historical note, he discusses the methods for both estimations and comes to the conclusion that the answer varies according to the method used. He has used therefore a method to suit his own convenience. For total body water he has used the uncorrected volume of dilution of heavy water and for the extracellular water, he has used the thiosulphate volume of dilution. His normals have been obtained from various hospitals in Boston and the Rigshospital in Copenhagen.

A fair proportion of the work is devoted to a statistical study of these results in an endeavour to discover what constants, if any, would enable one to determine the size of the water compartments from either age, weight, height or a combination of these. There does not appear, however, to be a formula which is valid. It was found that the total body water expressed as a percentage of the body weight decreases with each age group from 77.6 at birth to 58.4 in adolescence. It is therefore possible to get an approximate value of the total body water using the age and weight. The extracellular water decreases in the same manner with age, and again the

percentage of the body weight, varied according to age, gives one the most accurate measurement. On the other hand, the intracellular water remains relatively constant, increasing slightly if anything during the first years of life when expressed as a percentage of the total body weight.

In the last chapter there is some discussion of the meaning of these results. The main conclusion is that in all mammals there is a progressive 'drying out' as they develop from the foetal to the adult stage.

This book contains a considerable amount of work, much of which has been published in separate papers and to anyone requiring standards for body fluids it will prove of great value. There are one or two unfortunate errors in the tables and a certain number of misprints in the text.

**All Our Children.** A Book for Parents. By SIMON YUDKIN. (Pp. x+201. 12s. 6d.) London: Max Reinhardt. 1956.

Although this book is written specially for parents, it will be of great interest to teachers, family doctors, paediatricians, and in fact to anyone who is closely associated with the developing child.

The great decrease in prolonged illness in early life has made the paediatrician increasingly aware of the many problems associated with the emotional development of the child. These problems have themselves increased in complexity because of the profound and rapid social changes in the last few years, and the general background of unrest and insecurity in the world.

Much valuable help will be obtained from this book in dealing with these problems of childhood and adolescence perhaps leading to the prevention of more serious disorders which can only be dealt with by a trained psychologist.

Dr. Yudkin stresses the great individual variations that occur in the intellectual and emotional growth of children who so often fail to conform to the rigid standards expected of them by educationalists, or to fit into the plan of their lives laid down for them in advance by their fond parents. Mistakes by parents are inevitable, but Dr. Yudkin points out that the lasting effect of single mistakes has received undue emphasis, too much attention often being paid to the science of 'diaperology'.

This very readable and well-produced book should be studied by everyone interested in the development of children. There can scarcely be a subject of greater importance.

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#### **Ninth International Congress of Paediatrics**

The ninth International Congress of Paediatrics will be held in Montreal, Canada, from July 19 to July 25, 1959, under the chairmanship of Dr. Alan Ross, Professor of Pediatrics, the Montreal Children's Hospital, Montreal 25, Canada.