Spastics in Cheyne Walk. Edited and compiled by
JOAN SAUNDERS and MARJORIE NAPIER. (Pp. xiv + 156;

This is an account of the successful struggle to organize
a centre for spastic children in London, describing in
considerable detail the planning and layout of this centre.
As such it could be a helpful guide for the development
of similar centres and will be read with interest by those
associated with the care of spastic children. The nature
of cerebral palsy and the work of the staff are explained
in simple terms. The value of the staff reports and of
the experience gained is as yet limited by the short time
that the centre has been open.

International Congress of Gastroenterology. Fifth Meet-
ing of l'Association des Sociétés Européennes e
Mediterranéennes de Gastro-Enterologie, London,
July, 1956. Edited by HAROLD EDWARDS. (Pp. 766.)
Basel: Karger.

A large volume has been needed to reproduce the
many papers read at this congress which was attended by
distinguished visitors from almost all the European and
Mediterranean countries, and many from the Common-
wealth and the U.S.A.

Dr. Thomas Hunt, as president of the British Society
of Gastroenterology, presided, and addresses of welcome
were given by Sir Harry Platt and the Minister of Health.

Part one is mainly devoted to benign conditions of the
oesophagus and contains much of paediatric importance.
Of particular interest is a contribution by J. Nauta of
Leyden describing fundamental research into the nature
of the closing mechanism between oesophagus and
stomach. He demonstrates that the closure is valve-like
in nature due to the oblique inlet, and to the support of
the diaphragm and oblique muscle fibres in the stomach
wall: the actual watertight closure is insured by a
rosette of gastric mucosal folds of which he provides
endoscopic photographs. There are a number of papers
on neuromuscular abnormalities and on various aspects
of hiatus hernia, with excellent radiographic reproduc-
tions. R. H. R. Belsey gives an account of 27 cases of
oesophageal obstruction in childhood, occurring as a
complication of chronic reflux oesophagitis, and implies
that these cases are a frequent result of paediatric neglect:
'paediatricians are not yet sufficiently aware of the
importance of reflux oesophagitis in infancy as a cause
of vomiting ...' In fact, of course, reflux is an
extremely common symptom, and its control an elemen-
tary detail in the technique of infant feeding. Oesophagitis
and stricture formation is the exception rather than the
rule whether a hernia is present or not. Even so, his
case of advanced stenosis in which 'treatment for
acidosis, cyclical vomiting, marasmus and anaemia, and
hysteria having failed a barium examination was carried
out for the first time aged 5', must make us more careful
to investigate the regurgitating infant in whom there is
any evidence of bleeding or dysphagia.

In the second part, consisting of short papers, there
is an account of infantile cirrhosis of unknown aetiology
from India by F. P. Antia and T. P. Bharadwaj and, also
of special interest, a detailed account of the treatment
of hepatic coma by dietary protein withdrawal and
broad spectrum antibiotic therapy by Sheila Sherlock,
W. H. J. Summerskill and A. M. Dawson. A review of
work on coeliac disease is given by W. Sheldon who
suggests that the role of gluten is sufficiently established
to justify the use of the term gluten intolerance in prefer-
ence to coeliac disease.

In part three ulcerative colitis is discussed in all its
aspects. There is a discernable trend to early surgery
while medical treatment of this strange illness remains
so unsatisfactory, but a number of those contributing
emphasize the psychosomatic aspect of the disease, and
its probable origin in errors of emotional development
in childhood.

Lehrbuch der Kinderchirurgie. By M. Grob, in collabora-
tion with MAGRIT STOCKMANN and MARCEL BETTIX.
(Pp. 775; 876 figures. DM 1570.—) Stuttgart: Georg
Thieme. 1957.

Dr. Grob is to be congratulated on this splendid work,
which apart from ear, nose and throat surgery, covers
every aspect of paediatric surgery. The standard of the
book throughout is so high that it is difficult to single out
any section for special praise. The large section on chest
surgery including cardiac surgery, and the beautifully
illustrated chapters on abdominal and genito-urinary
surgery are excellent, but perhaps the best chapters are
the neurosurgical and orthopaedic ones. Dr. Grob is a
distinguished plastic surgeon and he deals in masterly
fashion with this specialty. The techniques and
operations he describes are, however, largely unfamiliar
to British and American surgeons.

In the preface the author hopes that the book will be
of value to the paediatrician as well as to the paediatric
surgeon. Perhaps the most interesting thing about this
work is that the author is first and foremost a paediatrician
and only incidentally a surgeon. The clinical descrip-
tions of the various diseases and conditions aided by
superb illustrations in black and white and in colour are
outstanding.

The book is based on Dr. Grob's wide personal
experience and as his practice varies in many ways from
that generally adopted in the Anglo-Saxon countries,
there is much that is interesting to the English speaking
reader. Unfortunately there are hardly any references
and it is not always clear whether Dr. Grob describes
his own methods or those of other surgeons. The reader
is often at a loss to decide who carried out all the original
work, reference to which is made throughout. These
remarks are not meant to detract from the value of
Dr. Grob's original contributions to paediatric surgery,
as for instance, his highly successful conservative treat-
ment for exomphalos.

The book is most beautifully produced, paper, print
and especially illustrations are all of very high quality.
Unfortunately the price is extremely high.