BOOK REVIEWS


This is an altogether excellent book which fulfills a real need. It is a book which must be found a place in the library of every hospital caring for children, and on the shelf of every speech therapist. Paediatricians and others responsible for children will find it of great interest and of great value in their work.

The book contains sections on the development of normal speech, the delayed development of speech, defective articulation, stammering speech disorders in twins and lateral dominance. There is a useful chapter on the speech problems of cerebral palsy.

The book is soundly based on immense personal experience which has been most carefully recorded and analysed. It is full of sound commonsense and wisdom. Miss Morley makes appropriate comments on popular myths concerning tongue tie, laziness as a cause of speech retardation, psychogenic factors in speech retardation and speech being later in 'only' or 'first' children than others.

It is a really comprehensive valuable book which is likely to become the recognized classic on the subject.

There is only one omission. Miss Morley does not tell us how to distinguish a broad Tyneside accent from dyslalia.


This short monograph considers bone tuberculosis in the light of the modern treatment available. The brevity of the presentation restricts any full consideration of diagnosis, complications or any particular treatment. The literature on the subject of bone tuberculosis is briefly considered and the clinical and therapeutic points made in the text are underlined by illustrative cases with elegant x-ray pictures.


In this very readable book the author stresses the importance of the study of the normal child. He rightly avers that many trivial complaints regarding infants and young children are so common that they may be regarded as being within the range of normality. And yet, if the significance of these is not appreciated and the problems dealt with properly, the trivialities may become real problems for the infant and parents as well as the doctor.

The book is divided into four main themes—feeding, physical, developmental and behaviour problems. In discussing these various aspects of the normal child the author has been generous in quoting other authorities.

It may be felt that there is a tendency to be rather too dogmatic in certain of his own opinions but he has been fair enough to give the opinions of others about many controversial points.

The cover states that the book has been designed for the use of all doctors who are concerned with the care of children. It should indeed be of invaluable help to them. There are many chapters, especially those on feeding and behaviour problems, which could be read with benefit by sisters and nurses who look after children. For undergraduate students the book should serve as a useful introduction to the study of paediatrics.


Any attempt to reduce the psychological trauma to small children occasioned by their admission to hospital is worthy of study, and the Vancouver Health Centre, one of whose directors is Dr. Donald Paterson, has produced this very pleasant little booklet. It should provide pleasure for small children before the day of admission comes, and help the mother, through the medium of its attractive sketches of hospital life, to explain something of what her child will face when an in-patient. I believe that a booklet of this type might well help a child after his discharge to forget the less pleasant experiences, by reminding him of the lighter side. He might well count this book amongst his treasures long after his discharge.

The Medical Annual. Edited by SIR HENRY TIDY and PROFESSOR R. MILNES WALKER. (Pp. xl+570; 52 plates. No price given.) Bristol: John Wright. 1957.

The publication of circulation statistics has become a familiar form of advertising among newspapers and periodicals and, if this practice ever extends to medical books and journals, it seems probable that the Medical Annual will be very favourably placed. This year sees the 75th issue, which maintains the same form and high standard of its predecessors.

Articles from the recent medical literature of the world are reviewed in a series of brief notes, titled according to subject and arranged in alphabetical order. There are also four special articles including an exceptionally lucid account of the modern theory of blood coagulation.

In their introduction the editors remark that 'children's wards in hospital are half empty and many are being closed' and this belief probably accounts for the relative paucity of paediatric subjects in the text. This, of course, leaves more space for other specialties and thus enhances the value of the book to those who are already familiar with paediatric literature. They will learn with interest that infection with measles is acquired solely through the eyes (page 234) and among many other novel and interesting items there is an excellent review of some recent vital statistics.