

BOOK REVIEWS

The Year Book of Pediatrics. Edited by SYDNEY S. GELLIS. (Pp. 469. \$7.50.) Year Book Publishers, Chicago. 1957-58.

The Year Book of Pediatrics for 1957-58 is in the tradition and up to the standard of its very competent predecessors. The notice taken of non-American activities has been rising over the years and in the present volume more than one third of the articles abstracted are not American; thus a much broader picture of the year's work in children's medicine is presented. In a mixed bag such as this, providing something for everyone, the quality of the work abstracted will inevitably be variable, yet for anyone wishing to see what has gone on in paediatrics in the past year this book will be more valuable than any other; and if the invited comments by selected experts which follow some of the abstracts are as irritating as ever, they are in the tradition of this Year Book and one must presume that there is a demand for them in some quarters or they would not be there.

Paediatrics. Supplement 1957. Edited by WILFRID GAISFORD and REGINALD LIGHTWOOD. (Pp. v+157; 45 figures. 35s.) London: Butterworth. 1957.

This is the second supplement of *Paediatrics* for the Practitioner. It contains original contributions by various specialists, on gamma-globulin and immunity, prophylactic immunization, steroid therapy, skin tuberculosis, congenital heart disease, funnel chest, cysts of the neck, the testes and penis, and galactosaemia. In addition there is a further *Noter-up* or *Bringer-up-to-dater* which entirely replaces the previous edition.

The volume is as factual and practical as those preceding it and the presentation maintains the high standard set. It makes one miserable to note that the combined price for the set of volumes is now £14 10s. 0d.

Pediatric Profiles. Edited by BORDEN S. VEEDER. (Pp. 267.) St. Louis: C. V. Mosby. 1957.

As the illustrious men of their day die they leave behind them many forms of memorial. Not least of these perhaps is the enduring memory which lingers in the hearts and minds of those who knew them. A later generation may read their writings and they may also be known by one or other alteration they have made to the subject or discipline they adorned. But scientific writing tends not to evoke the personality of the writer, nor does a ward block named after someone conjure up to a younger generation a picture of the man whose memory it honours. In order that succeeding generations should know something not only of the scientific contributions of the great but also something of their personalities the *Journal of Pediatrics* in 1953 started to acquire and publish a series of word pictures of great paediatricians,

written by people who had known them intimately. Thirty of these have now been collected in this volume entitled *Pediatric Profiles*, in which worldly achievements are incidental and subordinate to the character and personality of the subject.

The original idea was that only Americans should be included and that they should be not still living, but as the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Pediatrics* progressed, however, they realized that some men who had exerted a national influence on American paediatrics were not in fact Americans, and the scope of the subject matter had to be widened to include some British and Continental paediatricians; we thus find Jacobi, the first President of the American Pediatric Society, next to Sir Thomas Barlow, while Abt is followed by Jundell of Sweden, Still, Poynton, Cooley and Brennemann. What a series of subjects for their authors!

Pediatric Profiles will find a welcome wherever the discipline of paediatrics is followed. To the existing generation, many of whom will remember some of the characters depicted in the book, memories will be re-awakened vividly, while coming generations of paediatricians will find first-hand appraisals of the personalities of men whose work will be bound to influence their daily lives and doings. The book ends with two nostalgic little pieces of what has been called anecdotal, one on paediatrics in Vienna at the turn of the century by Bela Schick and the other by the editor, Veeder, an account of his first National Pediatric Meeting in Washington in 1910.

Orthopedic Surgery in Infancy and Childhood. By Albert Barnett Ferguson, Jr. and five other contributors. (Pp. xii+508; 504 figures. 120s.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox; U.S.A.: Williams and Wilkins. 1957.

This book aims to fulfil the need for a comprehensive text-book of the surgery of the locomotor system (excluding fractures) as applied to children.

The authors are to be congratulated on the success of their venture and particularly on their presentation of those aspects of the subject which are controversial. In general their practice is in accord with that of orthopaedic surgeons in this country and such differences as exist are in emphasis rather than of a fundamental nature.

The readers of this journal will find much to interest them in this book which concentrates more on principles of management than on details of surgical treatment. Most of the common orthopaedic conditions are well described and rarities mentioned in sufficient detail to satisfy the needs of those not primarily concerned with this speciality.

Physicians will probably appreciate the concise and clear account of disorders of calcium and phosphorus