metabolism contributed by Klein. The section on
generalized disorders of the skeleton by Ferguson,
although using some terms unfamiliar to British readers
is stimulating and pursues an aetiological theme con-
vincingly and with conviction. There is a balanced
review of indications for treatment in cerebral palsy and
when surgical measures are mentioned emphasis is on
the few well-tried and successful procedures such as
triple arthrodesis, and even these are discussed in a
cautious way. The many operations described which
have a theoretical rather than a practical application are
rightly left out.

The illustrations are excellent and help both to clarify
and amplify the text. The bibliography is well chosen
and affords a good introduction to further reading in
those subjects which in a book of this nature must be
covered briefly. This book should be in the library of
every orthopaedic and paediatric hospital and depart-
ment, but its price, £6, will probably exclude it from the
personal collection of many paediatricians and surgeons.
This is a pity.

Chirurgie Préventive de la Tuberculose Ostéo-articulaire.
By R. KAUFMANN. (Pp. 174; 49 figures. Fr. fr.
The author begins ‘when this work appears, M. Blondin
will have proved before the Academy of Surgery that we
know how to cure and above all prevent caries of the
vertebrae. Osteolysis which precedes caries is a non-
specific reversible state following infection of the adjacent
soft parts. Once they have been drained the bone becomes
normal’. The primary lesion is lymphatic and the
author advises excision of the diseased lymphatic glands
and abscess leaving the wound open. Despite endless
repetition and the obvious sincerity of the author the
reviewer remains unconvinced. It would have been
better to include more evidence instead of referring the
reader to seven previous publications. Despite these
criticisms it is a refreshing book which stimulates thought
on a subject which seemed to be cut and dried.

Cryptorchism. By CHARLES W. CHARNY and WILLIAM
WOLGIN. (Pp. viii + 140; 28 figures. 45s.) London:
Cassell. 1957.
This book covers the whole field of cryptorchidism
except for intentionally making only brief reference to its
endocrine aspects.

The various causes of non-descent are considered. The
gubernaculum appears to play little or no part. The
importance of short testicular blood vessels is stressed.
Failure of development of the processus vaginalis and its
descent into the scrotum is usually accompanied by
descent of the testicle. Excluding gross endocrine
disorders there are two main causes of non-descent of the
testicle: mechanical difficulties or an inherent in-
capacity of the testicle to respond to normal gonado-
trophic stimuli.
The chapter devoted to pathological findings forms
the kernel of the book. These findings have been obtained
by testicular biopsies done at operation and to check
operation by operation and by chorionic hormone. The
opinion is given that the follow-up of a series of cases is
almost valueless without serial biopsies, although, of
course, it is realized that seminal analyses afford assess-
ment in cases of bilateral cryptorchidism. It appears
that little histological difference exists before the age of
9 or 10 years between the scrotal and non-scorotal testis.
The degree of pathological change depends more on the
age of the patient than the degree of descent. With the
histological material available it was not possible to
determine the relative importance of congenital testicular
deficiency and the effect of unfavourable environment
on the testicle. The histology investigations confirm the
previously established findings that in the adult unilateral
cryptorchidism allows normal libido, potency and
fertility whilst in bilateral cases it is often only the fertility
that is absent.

The second part of the book deals with symptoms-
tology, complications, diagnosis and therapy. The
authors’ study of the literature and their own experience
confirm that many complications are commoner in the
undescended testicle than in the normal. Of especial
importance are trauma, torsion, associated hernia and malignancy—besides, of course, infertility. It appears that the undescended testicle is about 33 times
more liable to become malignant than is the scrotal. It
also appears that the intra-abdominal testicle is four
times more liable to malignancy than is the inguinal type.
The malignancy is usually a seminoma. The point is
made that when this occurs in a testicle that has been
brought down by orchidopexy, the inguinal lymph nodes
should be excised as well as the testicle and its coverings.
The authors found very little evidence that psychic
disturbances occurred frequently or played an important
part.

Possible treatment by gonad-stimulating hormone
(chorionic gonadotrophin) followed by androgen is
discussed. Great importance is given to the avoidance
of overdosage because of the likelihood of harming the
other (scrotal) testis. The authors could not be counted
as strong supporters of this sort of therapy; they do point
out, though, that such treatment differentiates testicles
that will and will not descend without operation. The
authors attach no value to this therapy as a pre-operative
measure to facilitate the operative technique.

They refer briefly to the various techniques of orchido-
pexy and stress the importance of adequate mobilization
of both the testicular vessels and the vas deferens.
Basing their opinion on the histopathology of biopsy
specimens which indicates the changes of physiological
puberty as beginning at about 9 or 10 years of age, the
authors feel that all treatment by hormones or by
operation can safely be left until that age. As stated
above they accept the use of hormones as a diagnostic
and a therapeutic guide but no more. Regarding
orchidopexy, in unilateral cases it is felt that the value
of this operation is open to question. In these patients
fertility is already assured by the other scrotal testis and
investigations have shown very poor results of spermatoge-
nesis following orchidopexy. Furthermore, in some
cases total atrophy has followed operation. Thus in
prepubertal patients orchidopexy is not recommended.
The patient should be watched. Certainly in adults there can be no reason for doing an orchidopexy. In bilateral cases orchidopexy before the age of 10 years is advised as it is the only hope of preventing certain sterility.

If in the repair of a hernia satisfactory orchidopexy is impossible or if the testis is found to be unusually small, then it should be removed provided the other testis is normal.

The results of treatment by gonadotrophins and by operation are reviewed as is the literature. It is pointed out that descent of the testicle into the scrotum is of itself not evidence of successful therapy. It is spermatogenesis that is so important to aim for.

The material is well presented. The microphotographs are good and the references and bibliography excellent. These features make for pleasant reading of matters that require to be much more widely known.


This is primarily a radiological monograph and fully upholds the very high standard which we have come to expect from Swedish publications in this field. The illustrations are so numerous and well-reproduced that this volume will undoubtedly become an indispensable work of reference for x-ray departments undertaking urological investigations in children. Good chapters on anatomy and physiology preface the discussion of pathological conditions, but in the latter the text is so sparsely scattered amongst the illustrations that the thread of the argument is sometimes hard to follow. It is interesting to note that, as in other centres where radiography is given precedence over endoscopy, these authors lay great emphasis upon the role of urethral valves as a cause of urinary obstruction and enuresis, while 'bladder neck obstruction' is regarded as rare. The chapter on ectopic ureterocele is particularly valuable, as might be expected from Dr. Ericsson's previous studies.


Since the war hormone assays have passed increasingly into the province of the clinician and the clinical research worker; they are no longer confined to the physiologist concerned with pure research, or the pharmacist attached to a drug house. Clinical problems have brought their own peculiar difficulties to assay work, the chief of which are the minute quantities of the hormones present, as a rule, in biological fluids, and the extreme complexity, i.e., impurity, of the fluid which has to be tested. That these problems have been posed but by no means solved is illustrated by the fact that in five of the nine chapters which deal with bio-assays in this book, the author concludes with the statement that the available techniques are inadequate for routine application in the clinical field and that further work is necessary in methods of extraction of the hormones from blood and urine.

A chapter is devoted to every hormone, except the thyroid, the parathyroid and the gastro-intestinal hormones, and each contains a brief description and evaluation of the possible methods of assay, with a summary of the principal findings in normal and in pathological conditions. The physician who is interested in endocrinology will find the book easy to read and entirely lacking in complicated diagrammatic speculations which often confuse rather than clarify. The specialist will find in it an excellent and critical introduction to work in each field, with frequent suggestions as to what needs to be done.

It is a commonplace that biochemical methods should, if possible, replace biological methods, and this is particularly true in the clinical application of hormone assay. Clearly biological work can hold its own where fundamentally new discoveries are concerned, but the doctor is concerned with an individual patient and the superiority of chemical methods in this report is unquestionable. This is brought out very well by Dr. Loraine in his chapter on the oestrogens. The concepts which emerged from the earlier biological work have not, in the main, been challenged by the subsequent chemical studies, but what the latter have produced are firm figures by which the normal can be distinguished from the abnormal.


For the third edition of this now well-established handbook on infant feeding Dr. Mac Keith alone is responsible. There is evidence of revision in all parts of it and perhaps most noticeably in the chapters on practical manoeuvres and the physiological aspects of lactation. The section on diets has been extended to include modern work on inborn errors of metabolism. That a third edition has been called for seven years after the book originally appeared is at once an indication of the advances which have been made in infant feeding in this period and of the popularity of the book.


The publishers comment that there are few practical books on infant feeding, that the best of them date from more than 30 years ago and do not represent present ideas and that the comprehensive treatises do not give clear enough guidance. Dr. Delthil's book is 330 pages long, well-printed and clearly set out and may well be a considerable advance on what has been available in French up till now. However, as far as the present ideas on infant feeding in Scandinavia, North America and Great Britain are concerned, it is far from up to date. This might represent a justifiable French decision not to