of intermediary factors between the weather and the disease, as for instance the shutting of windows in cold weather, vitamin lack in early spring or river bathing in hot weather. Nevertheless this monograph is interesting and should be read by all who are exploring this attractive by-way of medicine.


In their introduction the authors say that theirs is the first exhaustive monograph on leukaemia in childhood since that of Willi in 1936. In tackling their subject they have followed the accepted handling of the condition, discussing the pathological anatomy, the clinical manifestations, the effect on particular organs, biochemistry and therapy. The section on the aetiology is, as might be expected, lamentably short. A noble attempt is made to reduce the enormous literature on leukaemia in children to some sort of order in that the various papers are grouped together in sections dealing with prognosis, leukaemia and infection and so forth. In a short monograph the authors have assembled a vast store of factual knowledge but they have found it difficult to say anything which everybody does not already know. As long as the book is used as a basis for further work it will serve a useful purpose and it will also have a place in the library of those seldom called upon to manage cases of leukaemia.


The authors of this interesting book take the now widely held view that medical care of physically handicapped children is essentially an educative process, leading the child to develop effectively the function he has. There is a basic need for the doctor's socio-medical guidance and understanding when a child is defective, for a child is a member of a family which also needs help; the young patient cannot be treated as an isolated medical problem. The writers consider under three headings physical handicaps of children, (1) sensory, e.g. blindness, (2) motor, e.g. infantile palsies and epilepsies, (3) somatic, e.g. diabetes. Adjunctive measures, if used at all, should be subordinated to the general plan of habilitation, that is training for life. Many physically handicapped children are also mentally retarded and even those of good intelligence may become 'retarded' by deprivation of the educative processes of ordinary home life if they are segregated in institutions. Surprisingly, the authors give much information about institutions in France for the segregation of handicapped children and no practical suggestions for their education within the family circle; surprisingly, because these doctors have evidently made a profound study of the needs of children in their three groups and have laid stress on the educative nature of their medical care.


This is one more book about the trials and difficulties which beset children of both sexes on their hard road to adulthood. In clear language and the avoidance of technical mumbo Dr. Wilkes explains the ordinary facts of growth of the body and the development of sexual characteristics. Adolescent psychology and maturation into a grown-up are dealt with at length and with considerable sympathy.

It is possible that there is a public for this book in this country; but most parents who studied biology to G.C.E. level at school will already know most of the contents; perhaps the non-medical parent would appreciate a reference book where the difficulties of growing-up are dealt with authoritatively and yet understandably, and to them this book can be recommended without cavil.


This fourth volume of the Ciba Colloquia on Ageing contains a great deal which is of interest to the paediatrician. The standard of the papers is extremely high and the discussion at the end of each contribution makes stimulating reading for those who have previously grappled with some of the problems which are considered.

The description by Fourman and Leeson of hypernatraemia and hyponatraemia in cerebral disturbances offers a rational explanation of many of the electrolyte disturbances which occur after brain injury or craniotomy. Thaysen's study of the electrolyte secretion by the sweat and salivary glands provides some basic facts about the variables involved, though none of the participants was able to offer an explanation, for the dysfunction of the sweat glands in mucoviscidosis.

Perhaps the most important papers for the paediatrician are those on the effect of variable protein and mineral intake upon the body composition of the growing animal (Wallace, Weil and Taylor) and Widdowson and McCance's exposition of the development of acid-base control in the infant and young animal. The first of these papers should be read by the medical advisers to all firms which produce proprietary milks, to help them to resist their own sales talk.

Talbot and Richie contribute an extremely thoughtful paper on the body's tolerance for varying intakes of water and electrolytes, a matter of concern to all who review from time to time their schedules for the treatment of gastro-enteritis.

The content as a whole reflects great credit on the chairmanship of Professor McCance and the organizing and editorial abilities of Dr. Wolstenholme and his staff.

It is perhaps worth the attention of paediatricians that British medicine, though ably represented at this Colloquium, did not include a single practising paedias-