

Le Nouveau-né Thérapeutique Médicale. Prevention et Soins. By MARCEL LELONG, FRANÇOIS LEPAGE and ALFRED ROSSIER. (Pp. 238; 6 figures. Fr. fr. 2,500.) Paris: G. Doin. 1958.

The Bibliothèque de Therapeutique Médicale adds another manual of treatment to its already long and on the whole distinguished list. This library sets out to present scientifically based therapeutic practice related closely to clinical medicine, and is aimed at the practising physician and specialist. The volume under review, on the care and treatment of the newborn, is edited by Marcel Lelong who contributes two chapters. Apart from a chapter on infections it confines itself to the physiological hazards that face the foetus during the perinatal period. Eight chapters cover respectively obstetrical trauma, foetal anoxia, white asphyxia—*mort apparante*, haemorrhagic disease, haemolytic disease, neonatal feeding, infection and prematurity. The approach is in the main didactic, the literature being drawn on chiefly to illustrate the theme, and the book is in the main the expression of neonatal paediatrics as practised at the Clinique de Puériculture of the Hospital of Saint Vincent de Paul and the Centre de Prematurés de L'Ecole de Puériculture. Each chapter introduces its subject with a careful discussion of physiological and pathological considerations upon which is based the prevention and treatment that follow. This rational framework sets a serious tone and a high level is maintained throughout, with perhaps the best contributions from Lelong in his account of foeto-neonatal anoxia, its amelioration and treatment, and the review by Dr.

Alagille of the mechanisms giving rise to haemorrhage in the newborn.

With some notable exceptions the care of infants is, as might be expected, much the same in Paris and London. However, adrenaline, camphor and cognac (which sounds more effective than humble brandy) are more used and indeed perhaps more useful than other medullary and cardiac stimulants. After all, as Marcel Lelong reminds us, Goethe was rescued from profound asphyxia by the midwife: 'elle plongea le bébé dans une bassine pleine de vin chaud, après quoi il se reanima et commença à vivre . . .'. Vitamin K is reckoned ineffectual, administered to the infant, for the prevention of hypoprothrombinaemia or of haemorrhagic incidences, at least in premature infants; Largactil is freely used to combat various kinds of 'shock', and a kind of moderate cooling to 34 to 35°C is administered for three to five days to premature infants suffering from cyanose, *le tonus, l'agitation et sur toutes les manifestations de choc en general*, using Largactil, phenergan and gardenal. Both the early, isochromic, and the later, iron deficient, anaemias of prematurity claim to be avoided by repeated weekly transfusion of 10 to 15 ml. of citrated blood. These, and some other practices, may sound strange to English ears, but are given logical justification in the text, and may stimulate some of us to look into cherished beliefs.

The printing and paper are excellent; the binding paper backed. There are but six rather oddly chosen illustrations, and the text contains several misprints, mistakes and slipped decimal points, most of which have been corrected in *errata*. The French is easy.