book there is a list of over 700 references with titles in full and an index which, though short, appears to function efficiently.

To the reviewer, an English-style consulting paediatrician without special cardiac training, of average intelligence but perhaps with difficulties regarding spatial relationships, this book is a revelation and has led to a revolution in the understanding of congenital cardiac disease. Every page and illustration bears evidence of imaginative effort spent in clarifying and elucidating problems relating to the action and haemodynamics of the heart working under abnormal conditions, and step by step each investigation is made to yield up its logical contribution to diagnosis. An important contributory factor to the character of this book is the impeccably simple and consequently lucid English in which it is written, which must reflect on both the original Swedish and on the translation.

The book sticks precisely to its terms of reference and diagnosis never spills over into prognosis, nor is there ever a hint that the subtle exposition of morbid anatomy, physiology and haemodynamics might have a bearing on treatment. But perhaps it would be greedy to ask for more: it is a fine book to have to refer to frequently.


In September, 1956, at the invitation of Professor R. Debré a conference was held at the International Children's Centre in Paris under the chairmanship of Dr. David Rutstein.

Experts from all over the world assembled to discuss the epidemiology and prevention of rheumatic fever. This record of the proceedings is arranged in sections, each of which is introduced by an acknowledged authority (R. Wahl, P. Hedlund, M. McCarty, E. G. L. Bywaters, M. Finland, P. Mozdzoncacci and Mlle J. Labesse), and each is followed by a series of short communications and a general discussion. Among a large number of distinguished delegates Bruce Perry, R. E. O. Williams and R. Cruickshank represented Great Britain.

This account contains a cross section of international opinion regarding the bacteriology and immunology of Group A haemolytic streptococci, including practical information about the isolation and recognition of these organisms and their antibodies. This is followed by a discussion of the epidemiology of streptococcal infections and their relationship to the development of rheumatic fever in certain individuals. This leads naturally to consideration of methods of preventing rheumatic fever.

After an interesting discussion by Finland on changes in the resistance of bacteria to antibiotics since 1949, a number of important points were raised. For example, although sulphonamides are suitable for prophylaxis of rheumatic fever since they are not bactericidal, they are quite unsuitable for treatment of streptococcal infections or for the prevention of first attacks. Penicillin is the most effective available agent, both for prevention and control of streptococcal infection. Unfortunately half the attacks of rheumatic fever occur without any obvious sore throat and the diagnosis of rheumatic fever is still largely a matter of clinical judgment and application of the criteria laid down by Duckett Jones.

The proceedings of the Conference have been translated and edited by Professor R. Cruickshank and Dr. A. A. Glynn, who are successful in producing a readable and well balanced book.

The Artificial Feeding of Normal Infants. By WILLIAM EMDIN. (Pp. 113; 3 figs. 16s.) Howard Timmins. 1959.

It is not very long since the artificial feeding of infants was considered an exact science and books on the subject were bulky and their formulae complicated. As a result few students made any serious attempt to understand the problem and many practitioners have been content to leave it to their nursing associates or advised mothers to follow the instructions on the tin.

Since then the subject has been simplified and it is realized that most babies are very tolerant and will survive on almost anything approaching a normal feed. There can be no scientific exactitude in a subject where measurements are in teaspoons which from house to house vary in size and in how well they are filled.

A new difficulty has arisen, however, in the multiplicity of preparations now available for infant feeding and this book sets out to present 'a simple, practical feeding scheme applicable to feeding with natural cows' milk and all types of the proprietary milk products in common use'. In this it succeeds admirably and the principles laid down are those generally recognized by paediatricians as the most satisfactory.

The book is divided into three parts. The first considers artificial feeding in general, the second describes the use of the different preparations available, and the last is an up to date discussion on mixed feeding and the use of dietary supplements. The subject matter is clearly and simply presented and there are numerous valuable tables making for easy reference.

This is a most satisfactory book and one which I have no hesitation in recommending to students, nurses and practitioners.


Although half the world's children live in the tropics and sub-tropics, the study of disease problems among them has been slow to gather momentum. Now, however, things are changing, and tropical pediatrics is becoming recognized as a subject worthy of world-wide study. Courses are being held, Chairs established, a journal is now flourishing, and finally the text-books have appeared.

This is the second book to have been published within the last two years, with two distinguished editors and 55