refers to the examination of 17 specimens of sera, obtained after skin tests had been performed, and he found that '14 (82·35%) showed a significant rise in titre'.

It is stated that blood culture is rarely positive, but it is surprising that there is no mention of a blood culture being performed on Case 4, which was diagnosed early in the disease when the titre of agglutinins was high; the reviewer has always found that such a case has given positive blood cultures.

However, this book emphasizes the importance of excluding a diagnosis of chronic brucellosis in patients who have 'rheumatic' symptoms and it is valuable also because it restates the value of brucellin skin tests when these are combined with serial agglutination reactions; the author also demonstrates the danger inherent in unpasteurized milk.

The Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children, 1860-1960. By DOUGLAS GUTHRIE with various contributors. (Pp. 75+xii; illustrated. 17s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. and S. Livingstone Ltd. 1960.

The Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children celebrates its Centenary this year, a fact which will be acclaimed by many outside the intimate circle of those privileged to speak affectionately of the 'Sick Kids'.

The story of this famous hospital is an epic which compels the telling as the first hundredth milestone passes. We must all be grateful to Dr. Douglas Guthrie for his undertaking and congratulate him warmly upon his achievement. He has given us a delightful little book which is assured of world-wide interest.

The author has been assisted by seven other distinguished contributors. This could have been a problem, but any risk of scrappiness or repetition has been skilfully avoided. History unfolds smoothly, crucial episodes and vital personalities are admirably high-lighted, and the result is a most readable record of great historical value. From its birth, a hundred years ago, the Hospital has grown gloriously in the setting of the Edinburgh School of Medicine of which it must always be an essential bulwark. Today state control brings a new challenge, as Professor Ellis indicates in his wise assessment of the future. There are many in the hospital world outside Edinburgh who chafe under the torpor of bureaucracy and pray for a renaissance in high places of the courageous vision which inspired the Voluntary Hospital System. Wherever re-education may be necessary, Dr. Guthrie's book affords a timely stimulus.

Maternal Disorders related to Fetal Stress, Perinatal Death and Congenital Defects. Selected References 1952-58. (Pp. v+33.) Bethesda, Md.: U.S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare. Copies available from the Library, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda 14, Maryland, U.S.A.

This list of references is concerned with those maternal disorders which bear on the foetus and the perinatal period and which cause congenital defects. There are some 413 of them but as the articles included are all in the English language, the publication is of rather doubtful value.

Der Liquor Cerebrospinalis in Kindesalter. By H. SCHÖNENBERG. (Pp. viii+175; 43 figs. DM. 29. Stuttgart: G. Thieme. 1960.

This is the first comprehensive monograph on the cerebrospinal fluid written by a paediatrician for paediatricians. It is divided into two parts—the first giving the *general* data of physiology and pathology whilst the second contains a full account of the fluid findings in *each disease*. In both parts the presentation of detail and the discussion of the theoretical aspects are well balanced. The main subjects of part one include barriers, testing for permeability, technique of specimen taking, pressure, cells, proteins, electrophoresis, colloid reactions, sugar, sodium chloride, lipins, lactic acid, amino-acids, physico-chemical properties, enzymes, vitamins, immunology, the normal, subnormal and pathological liquor in general and the liquor syndromes (meningitis, encephalitis). The second part is devoted to a description of the fluid changes integrated with the pathology of all known central nervous diseases of childhood including Listeria infection, actinomycosis, leptospirosis, mycoses, toxoplasmosis, foreign body meningitis and viral encephalomyelitis (down to cat-scratch disease).

The author draws from personal experience, and his presentation of the possibilities and limitations of liquor diagnosis is critical. A list of references running to 13 pages concludes the book. It will be welcome to paediatricians and clinical pathologists.

X-ray Diagnosis of the Alimentary Tract in Infants and Children. By EDWARD B. SINGLETON. (Pp. 352. 83s.; 11.00$.) London: Interscience Publishers Ltd. Chicago: Year Book Publishers Inc. 1959.

This is by far the most realistic and comprehensive book on the radiology of the gastro-intestinal tract in children that has yet been published. It is very readable and approaches the subject from the viewpoint of a logical application of radiographic techniques to the problems of children's disease. This is perhaps the chief value of the book. The clinical background, including the developmental, anatomical and physiological factors involved in each problem, is first excellently surveyed. The position of radiology in each case is then given in detail, and the radiological contribution discussed in an unusually able manner against the clinical background. At the end of each section there is a list of references, and the titles and subtitles are clear and numerous.

The illustrations are of the same high quality as the text and excel those found in most textbooks of radiology by concentrating on the problem at issue. They are unusually effective, and there are plenty of them.

This work can be recommended without reservation and will be found of the utmost value to both clinicians and radiologists. It should go far to clear up a lot of the uncertainty that still prevails as to the role radiology plays in the diagnosis of alimentary disease in the young. The author is to be congratulated.