

deaths, the advice on perinatal autopsy technique and the tables of normal measurements found at the end of the book.

The text is well set out in clear print and is not interrupted by unnecessary detail. Important references are given at the end of each chapter and there is a complete index at the end of the book. The illustrations are well chosen and clear and those of the cardiac malformations and the whole lung slices are of particular merit.

This book should be included in the libraries of all paediatric and pathological departments.

Le Syndrome D'Ellis-Van Creveld. Une forme de dysplasie chondro-ectodermique. By L. DAYER. (Pp. iv + 59; 18 figs., 4 tables. sFr. 12.50.) Basel and New York: S. Karger. 1960.

The author has reviewed 33 published cases of the syndrome (ectodermal dysplasia, polydactyly, chondrodysplasia and congenital morbus cordis) and has added four personal observations showing either the complete syndrome or variants, e.g. punctate epiphyseal dysplasia. Of a total of 36 cases regarded as examples of the syndrome, 11 showed parental consanguinity and 10 belonged to five sibships, including one pair of dizygotic twins. Recessive inheritance which was postulated when the three original cases were reported in the *Archives of Disease in Childhood* in 1940 appears to be confirmed. Of the 36 cases reviewed, 18 were boys and 18 girls. The condition has now been described in children of Jewish, English, Dutch, French, Italian, Swiss, Turkish, Algerian, Tunisian, Anglo-Irish, coloured American and mixed parentage. Of the various features of the syndrome, congenital morbus cordis seems to be the least constant, being present in only 20 cases, and ectodermal defects the most constant. The author points out that the syndrome is one of a number in which chondral and ectodermal dysplasias coexist, and that transitional types occur.

Child Development: An International Method Study. Ed. A. HOTTINGER and H. BERGER. *Modern Problems in Pediatrics, V. Supplement to Annales Paediatrici.* (Pp. ix + 237; 20 figs. sFr. 50.-) Basel/New York: S. Karger A.G. 1960.

The reviewer is in the embarrassing position of being asked to write a testimonial for a favourite son and seven grandchildren. Nevertheless, he feels gratified at being able to commend this quite remarkable achievement of an international study which, fostered by the International Children's Centre in Paris, derived from the Child Study Centre in London, a product of collaboration between the University's Institutes of Education and Child Health. Nine chapters set out the history of the coordinated studies, the general considerations and lines of work, followed by three important sections on the

social, psychological and physical (somatic) investigations. A chapter on the special aspects of the problem in under-developed countries, and another on the effects of malnutrition on growth, takes the study out of Europe into West and East Africa. Dr. Faulkner's own, slightly different, present work in Louisville, Kentucky, marks the spread of the collaboration to the New World. An appendix of 100 pages gives some idea of the complexity of the data collected by reproducing the various forms in use. A study of these shows how necessary is the final chapter in the body of the volume on the practical problem of recording and analysing the completed schedules. Indeed the difficulties of getting corresponding growth studies started in eight centres seem small compared with the rapidly growing problem of what to do with the material collected. This is a valuable contribution to paediatric literature and an essential guide book for those embarking on growth and development studies. The whole text is in English, well presented and the volume beautifully produced. Professor Robert Debré contributes a characteristically charming foreword.

Kinderheilkunde: Diagnostik-Therapie, Prophylaxe. By ERWIN GRUNDLER and GERHARD SEIGE. (Pp. 846, 848 figures. DM. 29.-) Stuttgart: Hippokrates-Verlag. 1960.

This is a beautifully bound and printed synopsis of children's diseases, written in a telegraphic style. The synopsis includes a little on normal development, gives physiological values, describes infant feeding and the various immunizing procedures before the systematic description of the illnesses in childhood. It ends with a chapter of over 100 pages which gives an alphabetical list of all drugs used at present (and in the past), together with all the available proprietary preparations, giving doses, methods of administration, indications, mode of action and side-effects. For a synopsis the book is too voluminous. It would gain a great deal by drastic pruning of out-dated material. For example, it treats syphilis with arsenic and bismuth, advises deep x-ray therapy for hyperplasia of the thymus in infants and devotes a chapter to thymus lymphaticus. On the aetiology of infantile diarrhoea the concepts of exudative and neuropathic diathesis are still maintained and its dietary management is equally antiquated. Bed-wetting should not be treated by corporal punishment, but the example of good children should be constantly kept in front of the offender; favourite foods and other pleasures should be denied until the offenders mend their ways. One could give a long list of such quaint ideas. In summary this book includes all that is new without having discarded much from the past which is no longer tenable.