BOOK REVIEWS

for his historical sense was one of his outstanding intellectual qualities. Alas, his prepared speeches, vivid though they are to read, cannot give more than a faint impression of the unforgettable delight of his conversation, nor of the effect of his extemporaneous contributions at conference or committee. Yet it was by these means that he mainly achieved the great influence he had on his contemporaries during his lifetime. His approach to life had much of the imaginativeness of the artist about it, so that his judgments seemed to be arrived at intuitively, and his opinions often enough had a touch of waywardness about them, leading to his being apt to take an entirely unexpected line on some controversial issue. Inevitably these aspects of his personality cannot be reflected in a book made up of his formal utterances.

Yet, happily, something of the charm of his personality, of the enchantment of his companionship, and of the impact which these made upon those who knew him is brought out in the excellent Memoir (in effect a short biography) which Sir John Charles has written for this book.

All must be grateful to those who have given us this book, for James Spence was one of the two or three men whose ideas have shaped paediatrics in this country since the War.


This is a work of multiple authorship in which 27 contributors, all from the United States, have cooperated. The editors state that it is 'the first comprehensive treatise devoted exclusively to the clinical aspects of cancer and allied diseases in children'. The list of contributors includes names that are well known outside the United States and all are workers of experience and authority.

The scope of the book is wide. Nearly every possible type of neoplasm that may afflict children is mentioned. A liberal interpretation is given to the term 'allied diseases', i.e. number of developmental anomalies being included which are allied to cancer only as possible problems in differential diagnosis. The principal interest of the book is surgical, although chapters are devoted to leukaemia and the 'reticuloendothelioses', which are mainly of medical interest. Some of the authors describe surgical techniques and many give details of radiotherapy. An interesting feature of many contributions is the evaluation of results of treatment culled from large series of cases in various important centres. Pathology is introduced only for the purpose of classification and to indicate the bearing of histological structure on the behaviour of tumours and consequently on treatment. No detailed pathological descriptions are given.

A few criticisms may be offered on pathological grounds. The controversial 'Ewing's tumour of bone' is accepted as a pathological entity and the frequency with which the syndrome is produced by secondary neuroblastoma is ignored. In Chapter 13 the author's attempt to resolve the existing terminological confusion between dermoid cysts and teratomata leaves the reader still confused. It is obvious that the term 'dermoid' is too widely applied. A new confusion is created by applying the term 'non-lipid reticuloendotheliosis' to Hand-Schuller-Christian disease in contrast to the diseases of Gaucher and Niemann-Pick, which are termed 'lipid reticuloendotheliosis'. If this terminology is unfortunate because Hand-Schuller-Christian disease has hitherto been known as lipid reticuloendotheliosis and Letterer-Siwe disease as non-lipid reticuloendotheliosis.

It is surprising that the treatment of neuroblastoma with vitamin B12 is dismissed in two brief sentences. In view of the encouraging results reported from Great Ormond Street Hospital, this merits more detailed consideration in a comprehensive book such as this.

The editing is good and little overlapping between contributors has been permitted. A few misprints and grammatical errors have escaped correction. The book is well produced and generously illustrated, especially with clinical photographs and radiographs. A copious bibliography is provided. The index is full but would be improved by the use of heavy type to indicate principal references among multiple entries.


This is a book about the mental development of children during the first five years of life. It is not concerned with physical growth nor does it trace the mental development in specific mental diseases. The title of the book could mislead the casual reader and has rather a dull, prosaic sound about it. Not so the text. In articles published in recent years Professor Illingworth has shown great skill in portraying the social and intellectual development of young children in words readily comprehensible to paediatricians, general practitioners and lay social workers alike. In this book he has excelled himself. This is a splendid simplification and condensation of the original studies of Gesell and others adapted by the author for day-to-day clinical use and widely modified by his own large experience in paediatric practice. The reader is usually given a clear expression of opinion and many illustrative case histories are recorded. There is a wealth of good, sound, practical advice and the text includes several specimen charts for recording developmental progress which can be applied without any specialized equipment or training. There is wise emphasis upon the value of personal history-taking by an experienced clinician, though not everyone would draw quite the same conclusions from the examples quoted. There is, perhaps necessarily, a good deal of repetition in the early chapters where norms of development are discussed in the text, then classified in tables by age and then again grouped in more complex tables. The perpetual problem of deciding what is 'normal' and when behaviour becomes 'abnormal' has often been ingeniously circumvented in this book by the device of having three standards: (1) Normal, (2) Variations from Normal; (3) Abnormal.