Each chapter has an excellent bibliography and the book has a good index. It would be surprising to find no mention of autism in the index, though it receives passing mention in the text, but for the conviction that the author is really concerned with normal development and only considers abnormalities in order to illustrate how normal development can be distorted.

Chapters 5 and 12 deal with pathological development in a general fashion rather than in specific disease entities. There is a short chapter on the diagnosis of cerebral palsy and an entertaining, if not very instructive, chapter on persons of exceptional mental superiority.

The illustrations are clear and useful adjuncts to the text and there are very few misprints. There is a slight error on page 251 where two lines on electro-encephalography are allowed to intrude into discussion of pneumo-encephalography and, taken in conjunction with the following sentence, might suggest that electro-encephalography is a dangerous test.

This book is entertaining and it is practical; it is very well written; it should certainly be read by all who are engaged in the study of young children and it should be purchased for permanent reference rather than borrowed from a library.


The supremely high standard of previous editions of this classic study are more than fully maintained. Many chapters have been re-written. Revision has involved careful appraisal of advances made in the study of neonatal physiology since publication of the previous edition. Acknowledgements make special reference to the activities of the Nuffield Institute for Medical Research at Oxford, and the Department of Experimental Medicine at Cambridge. The format of the book remains unchanged. Each chapter consists of a scholarly evaluation of the present state of existing knowledge and prevailing views, and concludes with a summary outlining the significance and practical application of that knowledge in the clinical care of the newborn infant. Together, the richness of his personal research contributions and the wide ranging wealth of his references afford some indication of the immensity of the task undertaken by the author. With admirable skill, he marshals his evidence; from a maze of often conflicting views delineates a clearly defined theme; and with carefully developed, logical argument arrives at his assessment of the present position. Established facts are given as such. Theories as yet unproven are presented in unprejudiced form, but with an indication as to the extent to which they may be legitimately permitted to influence clinical practice. Herein is to be found one of the especial among innumerable attractions of the book to practising paediatricians. Seldom is accumulated experience and erudition available in such stimulating and readable form, as in this book. Could there be more penetrating answer to the question 'Does physiologic jaundice ever cause kernicterus, or other significant pathology?' than the author's—"The clinical problem of physiologic jaundice has heretofore been essentially a problem of differential diagnosis. It may now have become one of definition'?


Frank Ford's textbook, which is one of the major classics of medicine, has now reached its fourth edition. The first appeared in 1937. It is becoming increasingly rare for a single writer to attempt to cope with such an extensive field, but the result certainly has advantages in respect of uniformity of presentation and simplicity of reference. Dr. Ford's approach is refreshingly personal, thus: 'Hysterical deafness is described but I have never seen it.' In this way he avoids carrying over material of doubtful validity from previous texts. At the same time his account of the subject is very extensive and authoritative. There is no other work with which it can be compared and it is essential to any library dealing with paediatrics, neurology or child psychiatry.

The price of the book makes it unlikely to appeal to the individual purchaser though it is worth much more than a great deal of ephemeral literature. The volume is well documented and some idea of the scope can be gained from the fact that the index occupies 221 pages. The index would have been much more convenient if authors and subjects had been listed separately. The mere weight of the book makes it cumbersome for the less athletic reader; perhaps two volumes should be considered if it is to grow any more.

Dr. Ford does not give an account of the neurology of old age, but otherwise his text is so full that one wonders in what other respect it differs from a comprehensive treatise on neurology. None the less it will continue to make a special appeal to those interested in children. The revision of the new edition appears very adequate and has obviously involved critical scrutiny of recent publications. Crome's work on the neuropathology of mental subnormality is mentioned four times and a bibliography is provided in addition to references in the text. The illustrations are excellent and the quality of the paper does full justice to them.

In his section on tuberous sclerosis Dr. Ford states: 'No doubt tuberous sclerosis is frequently responsible for convulsions which are mistakenly attributed to epilepsy'. This might indicate a dualist approach, but in fact this is not reflected in the excellent chapter on epilepsy which fully recognizes the principle of causality and refers only in passing to the 'so-called essential epilepsies' as those in which 'no clinical evidence of organic disease of the brain can be found'. The author also shows a very proper scientific scepticism in regard to a special 'epileptic personality'.

It is rather surprising to find such an authority as Dr. Ford falling into the usual trap about 'mongolian spots' which he described as part of the syndrome of mongolism. Perhaps we could avoid these difficulties if we used the Russian term of 'Down's disease'. The true Mongol spot is a naevoid formation in the lumbo-sacral area,