I find their style too ‘American’, too near the cartoon for my liking, but it would be interesting to hear the views of a group of mothers who use the book.

The only real regret is that such a useful book has not yet come out as a ‘paperback’ at a cost within the reach of every family.


This latest edition of Professor Ellis’s textbook appears only four years after the previous one, and is completely up to date. The work has not the size of the massive compilations more usual nowadays, but it has the advantage of being written by one man and so has a uniformity of outlook which makes for easy study. The book is written with immense erudition; the reader will find almost every paediatric symptom and syndrome mentioned, and there is an extensive index which makes reference simple. The print is big and clear, the illustrations are profuse, several in colour; and many of them are very striking. As befits its author, whose Chair is of Child Life and Health, the chapters on Social and Environmental Factors in Disease, Constitutional Factors in Disease, and Disorders of Growth and Development, are quite outstanding. Great stress is rightly laid on prenatal and neonatal paediatrics which takes up over one-third of the book.

Such defects as the book has, are the shadows of its virtues. Its format is large, and because of the good art paper used, it is heavy and uncomfortable to hold. So much has been crowded into a volume of medium size that many references are necessarily sketchy in the extreme—so much so that one wonders whether pruning might not have been advantageous. Professor Ellis is acutely aware of the immense variety, both in health and disease, shown by his young subjects, so that ‘is likely to’ and ‘in most cases’ have spoiled the sparkle of his style. His use of ‘outwith’ sent me to a (Scottish) dictionary: I do not know whether ‘calorie’ for ‘Calorie’ is a similar Edinburgh usage.

The book is extremely good value, and the student who masters it will have a complete framework in which to file his future experiences.


In this neat little monograph Dr. Apley deals with the problem of what he would like to have called ‘little belly-achers’ by applying, as best he can, the scientific method to the study of a loosely defined and certainly many-headed monster of a syndrome by objectively comparing his own material with control groups of children; he has managed to keep us informed and entertained. But he has achieved much more; for as, one by one, he matched each aspect of the syndrome against his controls, and tested various hypotheses of causation in the cold light of validity, he gradually abandoned his own bias towards ‘organic causes (and organic cures) . . .’ and has come to believe that, except for a very small proportion with frank organic disease, children with the periodic syndrome have emotional tension as a constant background, and that, for the most part, the pains are abolished or greatly relieved with the kind of informal psychology that can be applied in a paediatric clinic.

Amongst many other things Dr. Apley tells us that as against control groups those with the abdominal pain syndrome have other troubles like headaches, vomiting and travel sickness; that the E.E.G.s are normal in 74% of both groups and epileptiform slightly more often in those without than those with the syndrome; that drugs like phenobarbitone, sodium citrate, phenytoin, troxidone, oblivon as well as ‘old-fashioned mixtures’ might seem effective, but that their effects are variable, unpredictable and often transient; that less than 8% of his cases have any organic findings responsible for the condition and that one in 10 is considered to need referring to a psychiatric colleague for advice and treatment and that these are usually easy to recognize and always come from families showing evidence of marked anxiety states. All these and many other similar statements are backed up with appropriate figures.

Dr. Apley’s style is dextrous and persuasive; those who find his conclusions difficult to subscribe to, or have picked up lazy ways with phenobarbitone and slick reassurance should first read this delightful and easy little book of 82 pages and then return, chastened, to out-patient clinics to find a new interest in an old and troublesome condition.


This pocket book covers the whole range of medicinal treatment during childhood excellently. It makes disconnected reading so it has been tried by use for three months in a children’s department and has been found practical and reliable; one minor misprint and a few omissions of preparations used idiosyncratically by the reviewer, but no major faults, have turned up.

The introduction deals sensibly with dosage in children and is in itself worth publishing. The major part of the book deals with a formulary of preparations acting on allergy, on blood, on the cardiovascular system, etc. The list of medications includes proprietary preparations, and is interspersed with pithy warnings and guides to therapy, resembling but by no means copying, the Alternative Edition of the British National Formulary. This book is a marvel of industry as a compilation, but it bears an individual and critical stamp on almost every page, i.e. it is the composition of an author, not of an editor.

The mixture and the tablet are not the only considerations. There are sections on correction of fluid and electrolyte disturbances, poisons and antidotes, milk and milk products, as well as drugs used for the newborn and a Table of preoperative medication. Perhaps Gaubius’ method and Young’s rule for calculating doses might in future be omitted from the appendix, they might deceive the unwary into treating meningitis in
infancy with dangerously small dosage, although they have a place in medical history.

We wish Dr. Catzel’s book a long life, but that raises the question ‘Can he keep it up?’ Therapy changes quickly, yesterday’s advance may be tomorrow’s placebo, and much revision will be needed before each new edition is reborn. Just now, this is a book to buy and to keep at hand.


This sixth volume in the ‘Modern Problems in Paediatrics’ series is devoted to physiological and pathological aspects of renal function. There are 26 papers, nine on physiological and the remainder on pathological subjects. Anyone interested in renal disorders in infancy will find much valuable and up-to-date information. Although there is no index the table of contents is detailed and there is an excellent bibliography throughout.

The first chapter deals with the renal bloodflow in health and disease and Reubi discards both Trueta’s ‘shunt’ and Pappenheimer’s ‘plasma-skimming’ theories and concludes that perfusion pressure, viscosity and arteriolar resistance are the chief regulating factors. Colin and Polonovski discuss the regulation of water metabolism in the newborn and in infancy and point out the difficulties in deciding which of the possible mechanisms is responsible for their comparatively poor powers of urinary concentration, diuresis and tubular reabsorption of water. They do not reach any definite conclusion. Elkinton discusses the metabolic production of hydrogen ions and McCance and Widdowson consider some of the aspects of renal function before and after birth, concluding with a timely warning against studying the kidney in isolation and comparing a newborn infant’s kidney with an adult’s in regard to responses to ‘violent and arbitrary’ tests. Renal angiography and venography, their techniques, value and dangers are well described by Murray and Steiner respectively. The function of the tubular epithelium is lucidly expounded by Stalder and the part played by the kidney in mineral metabolism, described by Hungerland, will delight the mathematically minded, but may prove difficult for those whose familiarity with logarithmic tables has declined with the passing of the years. The value of the Volhard concentration test in assessing the functional state of the distal and collecting tubules is discussed by Sarre. In the second part of the book, dealing with pathological aspects, McCrory contributes an excellent account of the pathogenesis of glomerulonephritis, its diagnostic problems, treatment and prognosis. Kretchmer, Barnett and Shibuya consider that the nephrotic syndrome involves a strong constitutional element and that, although steroids have proved of therapeutic value, many problems still remain unsolved.

Nephrocalcinosis is discussed by Roger and diabetes insipidus by Lestrade. Fanconi and Illig deal with familial lipoid nephrosis and nephrophthisis and Prader with hereditary hypophosphataemic vitamin D-resistant rickets.

Linneweh stresses the importance of recurrent pyelonephritis in causing renal failure in adult life and the prophylactic implications involved. Zollinger undertakes the thankless task of resurrecting interstitial nephritis as a pathological entity.

Surgery is represented by an excellent chapter on obstructive uropathy by D. I. Williams and the physiopathology of the causative lesions is described by Jean. The treatment of acute renal insufficiency is well set out by Gautier.


This book is firmly established as an annual inmate of many libraries and Volume XI will be readily welcomed. There are six excellent articles covering a wide range of subjects. This is not the first book to show an increasing co-ordination between physiologist, biochemist and clinician; this is well demonstrated in Respiration and Respiratory Problems of the Newborn Infant by C. D. Cook, H. Barrie and M. E. Avery; Clinical and Experimental Interrelations of Sodium and the Central Nervous System by Robert E. Cooke and Edward J. Ottenheimer; and Aminoaciduria and Certain Related Disorders of Amino Acid Metabolism by Selma E. Snyderman and L. Emmett Holt. So many articles on allergy seem to be highly allergic but Allergy in Childhood by William C. Deamer is easily comprehensible and full of good sense. A reminder that some countries still have the problem of infantile gastro-enteritis arrives in an interesting article: Infantile Diarrhoea and Dehydration: Ambulatory Treatment in a Hydration Center by Julio Meneghelli and others. The final chapter gives further views on therapy in acute rheumatism, and Present Status of Hormone Therapy in Rheumatic Fever, with Special Reference to Short-term Treatment in Active Carditis by May G. Wilson is very stimulating.

All these articles are well written and the references are extensive.

Undoubtedly a large field of readers will be attracted to this volume, and S. Z. Levine and his associate editors are to be congratulated.


Among many recent books on cerebral palsy, this work is quite outstanding. In the early chapters, the theme is the essential unity of the syndromes of cerebral dysfunction, comprising cerebral palsy, epilepsy, mental deficiency and related disorders. There is special emphasis on associated sensory and perceptual disturbances and on the hyperkinetic child. The authors stress the dynamic approach to cerebral palsy, the necessity for teamwork, and the importance of integrating therapy with the developmental stage reached by the child. Lip service has often enough been paid to these ideals in the past, but here is a practical handbook with