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 born. Just now, this is a book to buy and to keep at hand.

**BOOK REVIEWS**


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-skinnig' 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 Lestradet. Fanconi and Illig deal with familial lipoid nephrosis and nephrophthisis and Prader with hereditary hypophosphataemic vitamin D-resistant rickets.

Linneweber 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 physiological pathology 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 Meneghello 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