precise and detailed instructions on how to achieve them. The methods advocated are those developed at the Meeting Street School in Providence, Rhode Island, and the authors have managed to capture something of the atmosphere of restrained optimism which is so evident to the visitor to the School. There is frequent reference to the practice and opinions of other authorities, however, and in general the therapeutic approach is applicable to British conditions, though the statement that 'The pioneer days of treating cerebral palsy are over. Facilities abound ...' will raise wistful eyebrows in this country.

In some chapters there is perhaps too much discussion of general paediatric problems, which is too brief to help paediatricians and unnecessarily detailed for therapists. There are few difficulties for British readers, although the definition of the perinatal period as extending from conception through the first month after birth will not be generally acceptable and may be misleading. There is a useful appraisal of the value of pneumoencephalography in cerebral palsy, and an illuminating chapter on the problems and social needs of young adults.

This book is likely to be of most value to those actively engaged in the care of children with cerebral palsy, both physicians and therapists, who could profitably consult it many times daily, for it contains a wealth of practical advice.


It is important to recognize that this account of a conference held at Washington, D.C., and sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health is written in America.

One appreciates the wealth and generosity of a country prepared to publish in full, not written papers, much less carefully drawn conclusions, but the thinking aloud which a gathering of this kind fosters, indeed, invites. One may regret that the drugs about which it is written, are, of course, given their American trade names; some of them sound unfamiliar to readers in this country. This latter is no serious drawback since a comprehensive glossary of drugs currently used in psychiatry is given at the beginning of the book. At the end is a reference list containing 159 items, reviewing current usage of psycho-pharmacological agents with children.

One gathers that the conference was called because of the flood of new tranquillizers, thus encouraging their misuse. The chairman, Dr. Milton Senn, deprecates this in a succinct contribution which ends the conference. Pointing out that paediatricians and family doctors are called on increasingly nowadays to treat behaviour disorders and symptoms arising from psychological difficulties, he pleads that the drug companies should not encourage 'the nonpsychiatric physician to use drugs when other areas of psychotherapy are needed, useful and indicated'. Indeed, there is more wisdom packed into the two pages of closing remarks than in other contributions that are more diffuse in texture, and cover more ground.

However, this is not a treatise on drugs. It sets out to consider the problems posed by biological research in this field as applied to children, with the developmental tide running fast. If behaviour patterns are compared, then what constitutes 'improvement'?

May not odd behaviour serve a valuable functional purpose in calling attention to stress? Is it advisable to obliterate signs of tension without fuller investigation? And above all, what constitutes 'normal controls'?

There is a plea for better planning in research aimed at evaluating the advantages of one drug over another, and because the conference is reported verbatim there is a good deal of repetition. In this country we tend perhaps to skim the contents and read only the summaries. This one cannot be read in that way for it describes a group of experts from various disciplines, psychiatry, paediatrics, psychology, biochemistry, social medicine, and others, comparing essentially their common areas of interest, doubt and uncertainty, in a field made more difficult by reason of commercial initiative and rapid advances. In reading it, one is allowed to share their difficulties.


This book, written by the Professor of Paediatrics at the Budapest University Hospital, and his cardiological colleague is indeed a welcome addition to the literature on paediatric cardiology. It has been translated from the Hungarian into very readable German, and on reading through the various chapters it becomes increasingly obvious that the authors have had very wide experience in their field.

It has been compiled along more or less conventional lines in that a section on cardiac embryology, anatomy and physiology is followed by a chapter on the examination and investigation of the child with heart disease. This latter in particular is well thought out and contains helpful hints.

In contrast to recent publications in the English language, more space has been given to the sections dealing with acquired forms of heart disease, and such conditions as rheumatic fever, diphtheritic myocarditis and the virus carditides are excellently dealt with, though one can possibly argue with the authors on some points where the cause of rheumatic fever and its prevention with prophylactic antibiotics is concerned. Heart involvement in acute bacterial and viral diseases and its management is fully discussed.

In a book of this kind, however, it is a little surprising that the authors have not dealt with congenital heart disease in greater detail, particularly as their patient material extends to 16,000. It has been estimated that approximately six per 1,000 live births suffer from congenital heart disease in some form or another and paediatricians are becoming increasingly interested in the early diagnosis of these abnormalities. Endocardial fibroelastosis, is not mentioned at all. Admittedly the incidence of various diseases varies from country to country.
BOOK REVIEWS

The section on arrhythmias and conduction defects is admirably described and well illustrated with E.C.G. tracings. Therapy in cardiac disease is discussed at length and prominence is given to the value of hibernation using the lytic cocktail not only in preoperative management, but also in the treatment of conditions producing acute peripheral circulatory failure, cyanotic attacks in Fallot's tetralogy, and supraventricular paroxysmal tachycardia.

The book is well produced, and can confidently be recommended to anyone interested in this subject.


This excellent little book written by an ear, nose and throat surgeon with wide experience in paediatrics, covers the whole of paediatric ear, nose and throat surgery in its widest sense. It is specifically written for the general practitioner and the paediatrician, and details of surgical treatment are omitted.

In the short space of just over 300 pages, the author manages to describe practically all the conditions which are encountered in childhood, and special emphasis is put on those diseases peculiar to the young age groups.

It is perhaps inevitable that some of the conditions described, especially those which are not usually directly handled by ear, nose and throat surgeons, as for instance, congenital abnormalities of the palate, oesophagus, pinna and the neck, are not described very fully, but the general standard of the text is very high.

It is difficult to single out any of the chapters for special praise, but the extensive chapters on diseases of the middle ear and the chapter on 'Speech Disturbances' by Professor Luchsinger, are especially outstanding.

Although the treatment which Dr. Biesalski outlines in this book is very much up to date, he has still included many well established and proven methods of therapy in preference to some, as yet, experimental methods of treatment.

The book is beautifully printed and the photographs and drawings are of the very high standard with which one is accustomed from these publishers.

The references are adequate, but it is noticeable how few English and American references are given, possibly because the book is written for German paediatricians who will not have the time nor the facilities to look up much foreign literature.


In recent years, biochemical and physiological methods have become available which are applicable to investigations on infants and small children. This has stimulated interest in the normal development of bodily functions from birth to adulthood; yet new information has tended to be scattered widely through a variety of medical journals. To remedy this situation a symposium was organized in Germany some two years ago at which invited speakers from many countries presented their work in this field. This book reprints the communications ('lectures') given at that time; no discussion is printed.

A large number of topics is covered, beginning with four general chapters, including one on the stress-reaction and one on oxygen lack at the time of birth. The special part contains 48 chapters of unequal length (varying from two to 15 pages). Almost all of the authors have recently done active research on the subject which they review. This ensures an air of topicality often sadly missing from other 'Symposia'. There are seven chapters on nervous system, EEG and temperature regulation, two on respiration, three on circulation, seven on metabolism, nine on kidney and electrolytes, four on gastrointestinal functions, eight on blood and its constituents, including immunological aspects, and eight on endocrines. A concluding chapter deals with the relationship between drug action and growth.

Most of the authors have managed to blend a description of their own research with a review of the results achieved by other workers. The standard of presentation is high, almost without exception. There is not only much detailed information, but the reader will find many useful hints on work recently done or still in progress. This is thus both a stimulating and a rewarding book, which also serves as an almost indispensable book of reference. Although most of the chapters are in German, 14 are in English (six of these on the kidney and allied subjects), two of them by authors from the U.K. (Derek Richter and Thomas Stapleton). Most of the chapters contain many helpful diagrams and tables, which can of course be understood without much knowledge of German. Useful lists of references are appended to each of the chapters and there is a good index.

This seems a 'must' for all medical libraries and should be studied not only by paediatricians but also by clinical pathologists, biochemists and physiologists. The price, although high, is reasonable by German publishing standards.


This book originated in a course of lectures given to second-year medical students at Harvard School of Medicine. Intended to serve as a link between the preclinical and clinical course, it is now addressed to the clinician with an inquiring mind, and time to inquire; and the laboratory worker with a keen clinical interest and opportunity to keep this interest alive at the bedside. Since such people are relatively few, the book's limitations are inseparable from its virtues. In addition to sections on haematology, chemical pathology, and bacteriology, it includes chapters on cardiac catheterization and pulmonary physiology. Each section is introduced by a detailed consideration of the physiological