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