literature on each subject and modern British and American views are given due prominence. The approach to clinical paediatrics as a whole is thoroughly modern and up to date. It is gratifying to see that the gulf which has separated the German and Anglo-American paediatric thinking in the post-war years seems to be getting narrower. We must welcome this excellent monumental work, which will find a permanent place not only in German-speaking countries but on the shelves of all paediatric libraries. We look forward to the appearance of the other two volumes.


This book, edited by an emeritus professor of maternal and child health and an associate professor of paediatrics and psychiatry, is a forward-looking book, at least in its attempts to achieve a grouping together of knowledge and ideas of physiology, sociology, mental health, maternal health, growth and development, mental growth, and a host of other items which may be regarded as central or marginal in all those considerations significant in the 'close and important tie between health and development'. In broad terms this book presents a picture of the child and his expected progress at all ages 'from conception to maturity'. It is intended for professionals and is stated to provide a background essential for workers in the fields of education, psychology, nutrition, social work, nursing, public health and medicine.

Undoubtedly a great deal of easy and comfortable reading exists in this book and most of the 20 contributors have given a balanced emphasis sufficient to indicate to 'professionals' (social workers, psychologists, and others) the many factors involved in obtaining and maintaining health in children. We can give the book good recommendation for its general form and apt chapter sequences, extensive bibliography and up-to-date references. In the United Kingdom this volume might well have its maximum usefulness in the new three-year training course for teachers or as a means of adding strength to health education programmes. Paediatricians would also find something acceptable and here and there a new idea to add to their 'health mindedness' in everyday practice.


This is a book of the synopsis type which is not intended to take the place of standard textbooks. It concentrates into the short space of 600 pages the basic facts about all the major diseases of children. To read and digest its entire contents would give the most hardened examination candidate dyspepsia and its real value is doubtless to fill the gaps in his knowledge, and as a convenient source of reference. To accomplish these purposes a book should be both comprehensive and reliable and this new edition rates highly on both scores. There are few omissions of any importance, although a chapter on the adenoviruses would have improved the section on viral diseases and the book does not reflect current interest in resistant rickets and the chemotherapy of primary tuberculosis. The introduction of the metric system has enhanced the usefulness of the book and has been accomplished with few errors apart from the electrifying statement that a baby gains 440 g per day for the first 100 days! The new section on electrocardiography is informative and well balanced.

It is probably inevitable that such a book should be dogmatic at times, but herein lies a danger, for although dogma may be recognized by the experienced, it will readily mislead the inexpert reader for whom the book is intended. Thus comments, that exchange transfusion is required if bilirubin exceeds 18 mg. % in prematurity, that the lingual frenum is never short enough to cause trouble, and that it is essential to locate the vein before intravenous transfusion need expansion before they are wholly acceptable. When space has precluded the proper appraisal of a topic, it would have been better to omit it, for brief references such as those to selenium in teratogenesis and to steroids in the treatment of the wheezy child are misleading and may even be dangerous. With these slight reservations, Rendle-Short's book can be confidently recommended and the fact that a third edition has been required already is evidence that it satisfies a need.


The author of this monograph disarms criticism by stating that he will restrict it to a clinical account of the management of 10 cases of atresia of the bile ducts. Opinions may differ as to the value of making such a report in book form.

The operation of bouginage of the liver and attachment of intestine to the portal region in the hope of draining 'bile lakes' is an old one. Dr. Sterling has brought it up to date using silver tubes in the liver and reports a successful case followed for two years. There is an addendum to the book of one sentence which notes that eight cases have now been successfully treated by the same operation. It would be foolish to disregard any method giving therapeutic hope in this difficult condition, but another edition reporting these eight cases in detail would carry more weight.


Clinicians, virologists and pathologists are equally concerned with an ever-increasing variety of virus meningo-encephalitis. This report of discussions by a group of experts makes it evident that the variety of