

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.

The Healthy Child. Edited by HAROLD C. STUART and DANE G. PRUGH. (Pp. xvi + 507; 6 figures + 4 tables. 80s.) Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press; London: Oxford University Press. 1960.

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.

A Synopsis of Children's Diseases. 3rd ed. By JOHN RENDLE-SHORT. (Pp. xii + 660; 15 figures + 25 tables + 3 appendices. 42s.) Bristol: John Wright. 1961.

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 inexperienced reader for whom the book is intended. Thus comments, that exchange transfusion is required if bilirubin exceeds 18 mg. % in prematurity, that the lingual fraenum 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.

Experiences with Congenital Biliary Atresia. By JULIAN A. STERLING. American Lecture Series. (Pp. ix + 68; 21 figures; 3 tables. 45s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas; Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1960.

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.

Virus Meningo-encephalitis. Ciba Foundation Study Group No. 7 (Editors: G. E. W. WOLSTENHOLME and MARGARET CAMERON). (Pp. viii + 120; 11 figures. 12s. 6d.) London: Churchill. 1961.

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

viruses which are known may become neurotropic is steadily increasing, and that the possibilities of accurate diagnosis depend more and more on the virus laboratory. Thus, for the enteroviruses Dr. Scherer advises that in order to isolate the virus the clinician should take gargles of 10-15 ml., specimens of faeces and of C.S.F. on three consecutive days and get them to the laboratory as fast as possible. Sero-diagnosis, unfortunately, presents problems since these are now 25 ECHO, 20 Coxsackie and three polio viruses. We clearly need more special units to study these infections, for the laboratory tests, though obviously deserving of special research, are as yet of little assistance to the clinician in charge of the patient. In this connexion the Virus Laboratory in Glasgow is taking a valuable lead and some of their recent work was reported to this conference by Dr. N. R. Grist.

The Natural History of Cerebral Palsy. By BRONSON CROTHERS and RICHMOND S. PAINE. (Pp. 299; 66 figures + 37 tables. 32s. 6d.) Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press; London: Oxford University Press. 1959.

With some honourable exceptions, such as the early works of Sigmund Freud, the literature on so-called cerebral palsy must be about the most confusing and least satisfactory in the whole field of medicine. It abounds in bewildering classifications, uncontrolled observations about aetiology, clinical descriptions couched in esoteric and incomprehensible terms, and dogmatic and unverifiable assertions about therapy. This book is refreshingly different. It is based on a unique study of the childhood, and in many cases the early adult life, of some 1,800 victims of cerebral palsy who were seen between 1930 and 1950; 750 of these patients were re-examined and the remainder contacted by letter. The analysis of the lives of these children is accompanied by a careful and thorough commentary on the literature. It is clear from the very different styles that each chapter was mainly written by the one or other author. Dr. Crothers' contributions are philosophical in content and almost conversational in style; Dr. Paine's are more conventional, concise and factual, and much of the information is presented in the form of tables. Each supplements the other admirably.

The whole subject of the cerebral palsies is dealt with in this book. There are chapters on growth and development, examination, clinics for cerebral palsy, clinical studies of the various types, electroencephalography, intelligence and education, life expectancy and employability, treatment, and the effect on the family. But perhaps the main concern of the authors, as the title of the book implies, has been to explain and illustrate the ways in which the relevant types of brain disorder affect growth and development. This is, after all, the essence of paediatrics, and the respect in which it differs from other branches of medicine, and this book provides a model which should be studied by writers on other aspects of paediatrics.

To quote Dr. Crothers: 'The pleasures and the difficulties of the supervision of young children are largely

concerned with controlling behaviour without impairing initiative.' 'The presence of a distortion of development upsets the timing of the relation between the child and those who have authority over it.' This has an important bearing upon the controversial matter of physical therapy. 'On one side are directors who believe fully that the core of the whole problem is intensive, prolonged physical therapy. On the opposite side are men who feel that the important matter is the fostering of growth and development and the achievement of as much independence as is consistent with the disability.' 'Perhaps one way of describing the two extremes is to suggest that one side relies on their ability to bring up children while the other tries to facilitate growing up and to keep their hands off as far as they can.' The authors admit that they are unable to appraise therapy accurately, but they conclude that physical treatment is reasonably satisfactory in patients with spasticity and ineffective in the 'extra-pyramidal' group. One of the most interesting chapters in this book concerns the emotional status of cerebral palsy patients in adolescence and early adult life. It is illustrated by numerous case histories and the important conclusions made by the authors are as follows: In the extra-pyramidal group there is no specific type of emotional disorder, although many of the patients were disturbed and sometimes bitter and resentful. In contrast, in the pyramidal cases, a typical disturbance occurred when the patients were subjected to incessant pressure. This took the form of the catastrophic reaction described by Kurt Goldstein, consisting of complete withdrawal to a simpler kind of existence.

This is a medical work of great importance; it is written with authority and modesty. The book, imbued with his high intelligence, compassion and humour, is a fitting memorial to the late Dr. Bronson Crothers' professional life, and it is a work in which his younger colleague must be proud to have played an important part.

The Newborn Child. By DAVID G. VULLIAMY. (Pp. vii + 163; 34 figures. 15s.) London: Churchill. 1961.

The care of the newborn has improved out of all recognition during the past 10 years, and in many ways has increased greatly in complexity. Nevertheless, the age-old principles of good antenatal care and obstetrics, the successful establishment of respiration, the satisfactory establishment of breast-feeding, or failing that a suitable alternative, care of the premature and the minimum of prevention remain, and in many ways have become simpler and more rational as the understanding of physiology and pathology of the newborn has grown.

Dr. Vulliamy has written a useful little book which, although it remains simple and easily understood by everybody, nevertheless very adequately covers the recent advances that have been made. The book is addressed to students and nurses, and will certainly be widely used by them, but is also suitable as a standby for the family doctor.

The arrangement is lucid and carefully paragraphed, the printing, paper and binding are excellent, and perhaps