

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