BOOK REVIEWS


A facsimile reproduction of the first English edition (London, 1743) of Andry's famous book L'Orthopédie, this beautifully produced work, should interest all paediatricians as well as orthopaedic surgeons. Though Andry coined the word Orthopaedics he was not a mere mechanical operator. He was devoted to Child Health in all its aspects and concernedjust as much with prevention as with cure. There are chapters on the causes and cure of dumbness, roughness of the hands, the body too thick or too slender, the King's Evil and bronchocele, piles, stitches stays and so on. As to the title, he says: 'I have formed it of two Greek words, viz. ὀσθόν, which signifies straight, free from Deformity, and παθήσιον, a Child. Out of these two words I have compounded that of Orthopaedia, to express in one Term the Design I propose, which is to teach the different Methods of preventing and correcting the Deformities of Children.' He then describes some earlier work on similar subjects, and in one reference (which in the original text is printed as Kings 2, xxi, 20, when it should be Samuel 2, etc.), has perhaps the earliest account of what we now call the Laurence-Moon-Biedl syndrome. Like all orthopaedists, he had his favourite gadgets. He designed a chair which would prevent falling of the fundament, and upheld it against all objectors.

Among other treasures are: 'Shoes that are too high heeled will make the bodies of Children crooked and for this Reason they should go without them, especially Girls, till they are five years old.' 'The Method of preventing Children from pushing out the Backside too much . . . You must content yourself with reproving the Child frequently for the Fault; and to give the greater Force to those reproves, you should not fail to mimic him frequently before his face.' 'The Body too thick. This is a very great Deformity, especially in young Women.' 'The cure: 'To abstain from Chocolate, Beer and everything that is capable of producing too nourishing juices, and to eat and drink very moderately.'

On 'The Body too slender' Andry anticipated not only the paediatrician with his not-to-worry attitude, but also the psychiatrist. 'Too lean a Body is a Deformity which we have less Cause to be alarmed at in Infants than when it is too fat. Children, at a certain time, necessarily grow lean, viz. when they begin to increase sensibly in their Growth. This leanness ought to give us no manner of Concern, for it is only for a Season. But there is another kind of Leanness, into which Children sometimes fall by certain secret Shagreens which they take. For the most part you will find that it arises from People in the House showing more fondness for some other Child, which excites him to Jealousy. One cannot imagine how painfully sensible Children are of this Partiality; they conceal their taking it amiss, and keep it as a Secret not to be revealed; but you must guess at their Trouble.'

There are references to tetanus: 'A Wound received in the fore part of the Foot sometimes deprives the Jaw entirely of motion,' and iatrogenic disease: 'We sometimes see young Persons affected with a Trembling of their Hands, which is generally owing to the bad Custom which Parents have of giving their Children Quicksilver Water, either to cure them, or preserve them from Worms.' He knows when to refrain from treatment. 'There are some Fevers in which the Lips become scabbed, which prognosticates a perfect Cure, and these scabs do not require any Remedy; for the best way is to let them quite alone, and they will go off with the Fever.' We can easily forgive him for his occasional use of mumbo-jumbo, as in the treatment of bronchocele: 'Take four Pieces of Cloth of different Colours, green excepted, a Bit of Sponge, and a Dozen of Wood-Lice, and burn all together,' when we read that he is ready to cast all such aside in the treatment of teething, as: 'If the Brains of a Hare, or the Blood of a Cock's Comb, and such like ridiculous Applications, have ever seemed to be of service in Teething, the Virtues ascribed to them have been merely the effect of Friction.'

This edition is produced by a photographic process and neatly bound. The title-page and original plates are accurately copied, and the text is perfectly legible. The publishers record their thanks to two Connecticut doctors, Beckett Howorth and Charles W. Goff, for initiating and developing the project of republishing this book, and we can endorse that sentiment heartily.


This book should be read by all who are concerned with the welfare—medical, psychological, educational and social—of handicapped children. In fact, it would make absorbing reading for almost every intelligent layman. The English is lively, stimulating and sustains interest throughout. Dr. Kershaw is a master of the telling phrase and adept with the arresting sentence. How better could the tolerance and realistic approach of the healthy child be contrasted with the acquired intolerance, based on fear, of many adults than in the following sentence, 'a child who has a major epileptic fit in the middle of a tedious lesson in school will probably frighten the teacher, but his schoolfellows will be grateful to him for the diversion'. This book contains not only