

a wealth of common sense and practical advice about the general management of all kinds of handicapped children, their parents and their workmates, it also includes excellent chapters on individual problems such as blindness, deafness, epilepsy, physical deformity, mental subnormality, psychological maladjustment and cerebral palsy. There are two valuable appendices on handicapped children in the less well-developed countries, and the handicapped child and the law. The relationships which could and should exist between hospital consultants, family doctors and the medical officers of local authorities are well described by one who has obviously mastered the art of human relationships. It is a pity this type of effort was not more often in evidence throughout the country. Indeed, the essential points of both principle and practice so ably set out by the author would be applicable in any reasonably advanced country throughout the world.

The purely technical aspects of the medical and surgical problems of handicapped children are not described in any detail. There are many good textbooks where such detailed information may be obtained. But there is an abundance of practical advice of the type so often absent from formal textbooks for those doctors, nurses, almoners, teachers and social workers whose duty and satisfaction it is to help the individual child in trouble. The psychological advice which is to be found on almost every page will probably be much more acceptable to the average reader than much of the work written by professional psychiatrists, if only because Dr. Kershaw writes in straightforward, intelligible and enjoyable English. Unlike many books of a non-technical nature it is completely free from the rather nauseating sentimentality which the subject of handicapped children seems so often to engender. It is also free from the almost fanatical and unjustifiable dogmatism which some well-meaning but scientifically untrained enthusiasts have brought to their subject. This book is warmly recommended to all who have any interest in the problems of handicapped children.

Paediatric X-ray Diagnosis. 4th ed. By JOHN CAFFEY. (Pp. xxvi + 1,236; 1,536 figures. 240s.) Chicago, Illinois: The Yearbook Publishers; London: Interscience Publishers. 1961.

This magnificent book, well known to all paediatricians and radiologists, appears in its 4th edition considerably enlarged and containing many alterations and much new material. Most notable is the new section of 70 pages on cardiology mainly given to congenital heart disease, and a big expansion of the section on radiology of the skull containing radiographs and diagrams to illustrate

neurosurgical diagnostic methods. There are innumerable additional improvements and changes scattered throughout the book. The author has expanded the principle of explanatory diagrams used in conjunction with x-ray pictures which has made for greatly increased lucidity, and the text has been amplified and in many sections completely rewritten.

The preface to this edition contains a powerful plea for a reduction of radiation to the minimum possible. Dr. Caffey recommends economy in ordering radiographs a 'stingy' attitude in the x-ray department, a widespread use of image intensifiers and apparatus for reducing the amount of scatter and the abandoning of certain types of useless x-ray screening which he thinks is scarcely ever justifiable.

Dr. Caffey has very successfully brought his textbook up to date at a time when changes in paediatric radiology have been great. Though there are some omissions, for instance there is little about the specific changes in fibrocystic disease of the pancreas nor indeed about staphylococcal lung infection in general, and almost nothing about chronic pyelonephritis, on the whole the subject of paediatric radiology is handsomely and very adequately covered. Needless to say, the binding, printing and the quality of the reproductions are beyond reproach. This book must rank as one of the outstanding textbooks in the field of medicine.

Atlas der Normalen und Pathologischen Handskeletentwicklung. By FRANZ SCHMID and HELMUT MOLL. (Pp. iv + 114; 113 figures. DM. 78.) West Berlin: Springer-Verlag. 1960.

This book is meant as an atlas of the normal child's skeletal hand as it develops from birth to maturity, and as it is affected in pathological states. The x-ray appearances are shown for each quarter during the first year and annually thereafter and are amplified by detailed tables and charts. The variations from the norm are shown by two subsidiary radiographs of 'below' and 'above' normal without any indication of the range covered. The pathological section deals with variations from the normal, endocrine disturbances, disturbances of the metaphyses, nutritional and traumatic changes, but each section is very thinly covered and many conditions are completely ignored.

The binding, printing and quality of the reproductions are good and it is written in simple German. It is difficult, however, to understand the intention of the authors. The book is certainly too detailed for the paediatrician and yet does not cover its narrow field adequately enough to be considered a definitive textbook on the radiology of the hand during childhood.