plasma bilirubin level and the risk of kernicterus. Many
influences, e.g. the plasma albumin level, the adminis-
tration of drugs, dehydration, hypoglycaemia, the state
of nutrition and the relative maturity, may all be con-
cerned. It is difficult to evaluate the importance of
each, and as yet it is not known why, under similar
circumstances, one animal may succumb yet another
remain unaffected.

All actively concerned in the study of neonatal jaundice
will find this book stimulating and of immense value
for not only does 'Kernicterus' deal with most aspects
of the subject, but it indicates the way in which future
research might be directed.

On the other hand paediatricians concerned primarily
with the day-to-day clinical care of children will find the
content of theoretical rather than of practical value and
will probably consider the price of 68s. too high.

Antibiotics and Sulphonamides in Paediatrics. By JOSEPH
UNGAR and LEONARD HAAS. (Oxford Antibiotics
Monographs.) (Pp. vii + 149; 6 tables. 15s.) London:
Oxford University Press. 1962.

This comprehensive little book should find a place in
the pocket of every doctor who undertakes the care of
infants and children. It should be made compulsory for
paediatric housemen. While it is essentially practical,
the basic principles necessary for the intelligent use of
antibiotics are clearly set out.

It is divided into three parts. The first, a brief
introduction, deals with general aspects such as the
development of bacterial resistance and the use of drug
combinations. The middle section is packed with useful
information covering all the preparations of value in
current use. Taking them singly or in groups, it
describes their properties. Stability, toxic effects,
absorption and excretion are covered, and are followed
by advice on methods of administration and dosage.

The final section is the most controversial. It deals
with the management of paediatric infections grouped
under anatomical systems. The advice is sound and
up to date and contains a brief section on the newborn
infant. Some might disagree with the daily use of intra-
theal streptomycin in Esch. coli meningitis of the new-
born, but little else was found with which to quarrel.
It is remarkable to find so much of value, so clearly
printed in such a small book.


This monograph by Professor Chassagne is another
in the series 'Bibliotheque de Thérapeutique Médicale'
under the direction of Professor Raymond Turpin. After
a rather cursory first part, dealing with immunity in
general, the main (second) part describes in detail the
various immunological procedures in use in France. The
third (and last) part contains useful information on the
principal regulations about vaccination in France and a
lengthy tabulation of the obligatory and recommended
vaccination procedures in most other countries in the
world (based on the latest W.H.O. recommendations).

British readers will find the French views on immuniza-
tion most interesting, if only for comparison with British
and American ideas, but there are some omissions which
are unexpected even in a French book, e.g. A. T. Glenny's
work on primary and secondary stimuli and other
principles of immunization, and also Pearl Kendrick's
outstanding contributions to the preparation and assay
of pertussis vaccine. At a time when the trend in Britain
is to reduce the volumes of vaccines to 0·5 ml., it is
surprising to find that the recommended second dose of
cholera vaccine for an adult is 2 ml., and that the third
dose of diptheria toxoid for a child under the age of
18 months is also 2 ml. There are good accounts of
vaccination procedures against tuberculosis, polio-
myelitis and rables, but it is disconcerting to meet
descriptions of dysentery bacteriophage (the results being
'sometimes brilliant') and meningococcal vaccine.

The book contains some interesting statistics: for
example, there were 3,167 deaths from diphtheria in
France in 1945, but only 31 in 1960. In the chapter
on tetanus, it is stated that there were 80 cases in the
non-vaccinated German Army in Normandy, and
'numerous cases' in the non-vaccinated Japanese Army.
The non-vaccinated civilians in the liberation of Manilla
in the Philippines had no fewer than 400 cases of tetanus.

A major defect, which could perhaps be remedied in
subsequent editions, is the lack of references: there is
little point in quoting names (and even dates) without
providing the means of referring to the original papers
or books.

This paper-covered book of 404 pages costs 60 NF.
As a useful reference book it should be found in all
British medical libraries.

A Ciba Foundation Symposium on Somatic Stability in
the Newly Born. (Editors for the Ciba Foundation:
G. E. W. Wolstenholme and Maeve O'Connor.)
(Pp. xii + 393; 63 figures. 50s.) London: Churchill.
1961.

Published proceedings of symposia are of great value
to the participants as a permanent record of their delibera-
tions. However, with the growing number of congresses
and symposia there should be other good reasons for
their publication. In the first place the work reported
should be recent, of high quality and better presented as
part of a symposium than as an article in a journal.
The discussions should be authoritative and stimulating
and there should be a theme uniting the original com-
munications and discussions. Finally, publication should
be neither so hurried as to give no time for second
thoughts nor so delayed that the data has been published
elsewhere or superseded. On all these counts it is
possible to welcome the publication in book form of this
symposium held at the Ciba Foundation in January 1961.
The theme is stated explicitly in the title and the 30
participants, although drawn from many disciplines, were
united in considering the stabilizing and adaptive
mechanisms which are present to safeguard the transition
from intrauterine life to more or less independent
existence. The viewpoint is essentially biological and
the experimental approach receives the greatest emphasis.