aspects it also provides a valuable source of information for the practising paediatrician, but unfortunately no references are given at the end of the chapters. This and the fact that the names of the contributors are omitted in the text conveys an impression of dogmatism, hardly justified in an exposition of recent developments, and which is further enhanced by the terse style and the frequent use of exclamation marks to stress an important point.

The contributors, who have been drawn almost exclusively from the large university clinics of Freiburg and Munich, have tried to pack as much information as possible into the allotted space and to achieve a comprehensive review of their subjects with the effect that sometimes a number of syndromes are mentioned with little more information than their eponyms. Such is the case, for instance, in the short chapter on cardiac hypertrophy in which Ayerza-Aprillaga, Pompe, Kugel-Stoloff and Wuhram eponymously appear.

Occasionally the results of experimental medicine are included where clinical confirmation is lacking, such as the use of orotic acid in the treatment of galactosaemia.

Interesting to note is the importance still attributed to the ‘Mehlnahrschaden’ as a factor in the aetiology of infantile malnutrition and the stress laid on focal infections such as mastoiditis in the causation of gastroenteritis.

Surprisingly short is the chapter on prematurity.

To the German reader the reference to teething powders ‘Zahnpunder’ as a source of mercury in the causation of acrodynia in England must sound rather puzzling since ‘Zahnpunder’ in German indicates a cleansing powder for teeth.

The general standard of the book is a high one and certainly does credit to the editors. If the reviewer would like to underline the excellence of the chapters on infectious diseases and metabolic disorders, it is not to detract from the value of the others. The publishers, Georg Thieme, have adopted the two-column lay-out of the Saunders’ publications, which adds to the pleasing appearance of the book. The 371 illustrations are first rate, the index reliable and exhaustive and misprints very rare.

There is no doubt that the book will be a valuable aid to all who want information on current paediatrics.


After a full and competent review of factors affecting the plasma bilirubin concentration in the newborn, Schellong has studied over 400 infants to determine the role of ABO iso-immunization, birth weight, post-maturity, neonatal weight and hypoglycaemia in the production of hyperbilirubinaemia.

He very rightly emphasizes the necessity for accurately determining bilirubin and the importance of precise calibration.

The work on iso-immunization appears to be particularly thorough. Schellong concludes that the infants who will show a marked rise of serum bilirubin, due to ABO iso-immunization, can be selected by an AB gamma globulin neutralization test.

The general standard of this work is high. There are few omissions, but the author does not appear to have seen Török and Szabo’s study of seasonal influences on levels of hyperbilirubinaemia.


A synopsis with nearly 900 pages of text sounds daunting, but this is really a shorter textbook rather than a synopsis. It reads smoothly, is clearly printed on good paper, is well set out and in most instances aptly illustrated (though the mongol child shown on p. 769 could hardly be diagnosed except by chromosome studies). Moreover, the French text gives the English paediatrician an opportunity to brush up his professional and linguistic knowledge at the same time, without unduly neglecting his family, his patients and his meetings.

The second edition of this well-known French book follows a pattern with which English paediatricians are familiar, though the unwary reader might think the table of contents had been omitted unless he looked at the end. The international approach of modern paediatrics is further illustrated by the fact that almost all the eponyms used would be found in any English book. A chapter on growth is followed by a description of the newborn period, then a presentation of diseases grouped by systems, and the book ends with an outline of emotional development and psychological disturbances.

The text is reasonably up to date, including, as an example, a reference to the French discovery of the additional chromosome in mongolism. It obviously does not cater for the specialist or consultant, and is not concerned with social or preventive paediatrics, but it gives a well-informed account of the diagnosis and treatment of sick children.


It is a great encouragement to all those interested in the progress of paediatric surgery to witness the increasing number of publications in which specific problems in childhood disease are considered from a joint medical and surgical viewpoint. This booklet, a collection of five talks given to a revision course which took place in Geneva in 1960 under the auspices of the Swiss Society of Paediatrics, reflects the current views on urological subjects of the great paediatric centres of Geneva, Berne and Zurich.

In review articles of this type, one would not expect a precise analysis of results, but several of these con-