special conditions, diets, antibiotics, corticosteroids, and finally 15 pages of dosage of important drugs. These are in the metric system.

A few minor alterations are needed: Digoxin injection contains 10% alcohol not 20% (p. 6.4). Piperazine is given in a single dose for roundworms (p. 8.1), and the doses for sulphadiazine, sulphadimidine, sulphasurazole and sulphanethizole are higher than those used in some other hospitals. In addition, on p. 11.4 oral, intramuscular and intravenous doses for 'ledermycin' are given, and this drug is only ever given orally.


The 79th issue of the Medical Annual appears in its usual format. The editors pay fitting tribute to the work done for the Annual over the years by Sir Henry Lethby Tidy, K.B.E., who joined the editorial staff in 1934, and to his modesty, sense of humour and gentleness.

There are as usual, four special articles: on Human Chromosome Abnormalities (W. M. Court Brown); the Management of Paraplegia (L. Guttmann); Microsurgery (J. Angell James); and the Psychotropic Drugs and Psychopharmacology (Linford Rees). Of these, the last is perhaps the most useful and informative, though the uncritical reader might begin to believe that in the future the manipulation of the personality lies with the chemical environment rather than through psychology.

In the section on Children’s Diseases, Dr. George Newns deals with the year’s work relating to toxicity of chloramphenicol, the masculinizing effects of progestosterone-like substances, respiratory distress and sudden unexpected deaths. Surprisingly in 1955, according to the Registrar-General, no less than 20% of deaths from 2 weeks to 2 years occurred suddenly and unexpectedly.

Mr. R. E. Horton discusses congenital biliary atresia and diaphragmatic hernias (and laconically suggests that hiatus hernia in infancy is a less serious problem than has been suggested by some surgeons).

Under Child Psychiatry, Kenneth Cameron reports that the ‘topic of interest during the past year has undoubtedly been cases of school phobia’, and his review is interesting to read, though it is not easy to conclude from his many references how seriously to take this symptom of maladjustment to the human environment.

There are many reviews outside the section for children of interest to the paediatrician.

In general two criticisms are offered: First, that occasionally subjects seem to come in for unnecessary repetition, as for instance chromosomes, which are adequately dealt with in one article and sketchily treated in three others; and the rubella syndrome, the Registrar-General’s report on which is summarized at least four times. Secondly, the reviewer finds that the brevity of some reviews is such as to render them almost useless except as a source of references. Long reviews, such as the eight pages on ulcerative colitis, or even the illuminating two pages on the natural history of haemangiomata, are informative and allow the reader to come away with a good understanding of recent opinion, whereas a 10-line discussion on the year’s work on obesity, or 12 lines on gastric polyps leave very little impression.

There are 75 plates, one in colour of the fundus oculi. The practitioner’s index of recent pharmaceutical and dietetic preparations occupies 15 pages, and a list of English and American works of new editions, 19 pages. The general index is adequate for its purpose. The illustrations, print and paper are excellent, and the binding as before.

The publishers draw attention to an important error in Table 3 (page 41) in which the dose of tranquillizer drugs is given in grams instead of milligrams.

Erratum

The Author (M. Fowler) regrets an error in the captions to Figs. 1 and 3 of his article ‘Two Cases of Basilar Artery Occlusion in Childhood’ which appeared in this journal (Arch. Dis. Childh. 37, 78). ‘Communicating’ should read ‘cerebral’.