argument is often, if not acrimonious, at least heated. It gives an impression of the fluidity of opinion on many fundamental ideas under discussion and of the urgency with which cardiac cyanosis in the newborn is regarded. When Dr. William Muscott says that the earliest he has operated for pulmonary stenosis is on an infant 3 days old, and Sir Russell Brock agrees that the earlier in the first month that operation is undertaken the better, and when Dr. Varco asks Dr. Senning 'so far as I know they have never yet catheterized any child intrauterine in Sweden, but they have done it through the delivery canal sometimes—would you tell us the indications of the Scandinavian group for catheterization in the immediate newborn period?', one is indeed being kept up with the times. But that was two years ago and already some of the questions then debated have since been answered.

This beautifully printed and well-illustrated stiff paper-backed volume is, and will for a few years yet remain, an invaluable companion to a full-scale textbook on congenital heart disease.


This volume represents the proceedings of a seminar organized by the International Children's Centre in Zurich in 1960, under the chairmanship of Professor G. Fanconi. The main subjects of discussion were methods of studying growth and development, physical growth, psychological development, influence of social environment on growth, nutrition and growth, assessment of health in studies of child development, and accurate prediction of growth and adult height. Of the 10 lecturers (Drs. Bayley, Dean, Falkner, Graffar, Hindley, Karlberg, Prader, Sontag, Stuart and Tanner), most if not all have already written more extensively elsewhere on their subject. Short papers or contributions to the discussion were provided by some of the 103 other participants in the seminar. As might be expected, the volume contains much that is unexceptionable but very little that is new. The now common practice for international or other agencies to organize conferences of those working in a particular field is certainly fruitful for the participants, particularly through informal contact. Whether the publication in extenso of the proceedings is equally valuable is much more doubtful. It tends, as in the present instance, to be a rehash of work previously published, which even the most unconscientious editor cannot transmute into a critical review. At their worst, when discussions are transcribed verbatim, such published proceedings contain much that even the speakers could hardly wish to see immortalized in print. The present volume is a fair specimen of its kind and has the merit of possessing an attractive format, 85 illustrations, and a number of key references.


This comprehensive work has been extensively revised, with the addition of some 500 references relating mostly to work published since 1955. It now reviews a considerably wider field than the first edition, and the chapters dealing with sex differences, measurement of developmental age, and with the effects on growth of heredity, malnutrition, illness, psychological disturbances, and the trend towards earlier maturity have been rewritten. Some practical guidance on the measurement of children, based on experience of the Harpenden growth study, is included. The author considers not only adolescence but also more generally the whole growth period from the viewpoint of a human biologist. It is clear that there are still important lacunae in existing knowledge, some of which, e.g. the exact relation of intelligence-scoring to physical maturation, are of mutual interest to the biologist and educationalist. The book is of great value in providing a critical review of the very widely scattered literature and also in pointing out where the present data are inconclusive. It deserves continued success and will certainly prove stimulating and provocative to a variety of readers concerned with man in the making.


This publication brings together two similar studies, one carried out on German schoolchildren (Drs. Pasclau) and one on Japanese schoolchildren (Prof. Hagen). In both instances the studies are concerned with habits and acceleration of maturation as indicated by cross-sectional data. The periods reviewed are 1913 to 1958 in the case of the German children, and 1900 to 1958 in the case of the Japanese children. Both studies confirm the familiar tendency to increased size and accelerated development during the present century which has been reported from many countries, and both illustrate the temporary interruption in the upward trend caused by the privations of World War II. The effects of the war of 1914-18 are clearly evident in the case of the German children. Although the methods of assessment and presentation of data are not identical in the two studies, their publication together provides some opportunity for comparison of two widely different racial groups. It will be interesting to see whether improved economic conditions and concern with child health in Japan during the next decade will tend to reduce the differences in size between German and Japanese children of the same age, which were still evident when the studies were completed.