and a large part of the book is devoted to a detailed radiological description of the joints and tissues involved. Some interesting facts emerge from their survey concerning the family backgrounds of the parents suggestive of the possibility of an increased tendency to psychosomatic disease. Treatment is fully discussed and stress is laid on the dangers of too rigid fixation of joints and on the possible aggravation of the disease by failure of the parents to appreciate its emotional aspects.

In the interesting historical survey at the commencement of the book due credit is given to the late Sir Frederick Still for his monumental work in providing the first clear clinical description of the disease.

It is perhaps unfortunate that the authors in using fairly strict criteria of diagnosis give little impression of the true incidence of the disease as met with today in the United States or elsewhere as one feels that many minor cases must occur, which subside before developing the major striking stigmata, but nevertheless might be indicative of the gradually lessening severity of the illness.

In such a retrospective survey it is difficult to assess the true value of the various serological tests commonly used as diagnostic aids as so much depends on the time when they were made in the course of the disease.


This book is an account of a study under the Chairmanship of Professor J. L. Henderson of cerebral palsy in the Eastern Region of Scotland undertaken by the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics with the help of the Advisory Committee on Medical Research (Scotland) and the Department of Child Health in the University of St. Andrews.

The Region comprises the cities of Dundee and Perth and the counties of Angus, Perth and Kinross, and has a population of 410,000, half of which is urban.

The survey discovered 240 cases of cerebral palsy under the age of 21 years. These are subjected to detailed medical, social and psychological analysis. Part I briefly describes the methods of the survey and discusses the prevalence and social distribution of cerebral palsy. Parts II and III deal in considerable detail with the medical, neurological and orthopaedic aspects, and Part IV discusses the social and psychological aspects of cerebral palsy, comparing and contrasting their findings with those of other similar surveys in the United Kingdom and abroad. Part V discusses rather briefly some aetiological considerations. This bald statement of contents does little justice to the workmanlike analysis of the survey that has been produced by Professor Henderson and his colleagues.

In the sixth and final part, Professor Henderson draws conclusions and makes recommendations. They may seem brief and unspectacular, but they are sensible and imaginative, and Professor Henderson outlines a plan for a cerebral palsy centre that, if adopted, would result in great improvements in the care of spastic children and render possible the close integration of at least some of these children into the communities as they grow up into adult life. Professor Henderson points out that the care of spastics is following a general pattern of initiation and development by voluntary services, through to takeover and integration into the statutory services when their value has been proved beyond all doubt. He suggests that such a trend is desirable provided always that the high standards of habilitation set up by voluntary services are maintained and enhanced, and that the temptation to make the patients fit rigidly into services already provided for other forms of handicap is resisted. His final words are that 'statutory services without workers especially trained in cerebral palsy habilitation, and without the special facilities needed in this field, would not be satisfactory'.


An electroencephalogram is as difficult to describe as a face and there is therefore something to be said for a portrait gallery of recordings as a guide for the interpreter with insufficient personal experience to make unaided judgments. This little book mainly consists of 101 full-page illustrations of ten-second strips of eight channel electroencephalograms of children ranging from 1 month to 14 years of age. For each age there are samples of the E.E.G. when the child is awake, asleep and waking up.

The difficulty in preparing such a book lies in extracting from a record lasting many minutes, a 10-second strip which is typical of the whole, and this difficulty is enhanced in a study of the EEG in childhood, since the younger the subject the more does the appearance of the EEG vary from minute to minute.

An author may be tempted to choose for illustration a strip which is free from artefact. Dr. Fois does not appear to have succumbed to this temptation, because interference due to movement, muscular activity, the electrocardiogram and even, occasionally, mains voltage are not infrequently evident. Moreover, it is curious that in nearly all the EEG's channel 4, recording from the right temporal region, is flat. This is presumably related to the fact that the recordings are 'unipolar' and the reference electrode on the lobe of the ear.

However, these blemishes detract from the elegance rather than the usefulness of the book which contains a succinct account of the technique of electroencephalography in children and of the main features of cerebral electrical activity thus recorded.


This second edition, 13 years after the first, is improved in binding, paper and type-face, and though slimmer, accommodates nearly 100 more pages. It lacks the