
The Child’s Lung, by Stefan Engel, which was published by Arnold in 1947, has become one of the best-known books on the lung of the child. The present volume, Lung Structure, comes from a different printing house, but is essentially an enlarged version of the earlier book with additional sections on the comparative anatomy of the respiratory tree.

It contains much of interest to clinicians particularly the sections dealing with bronchitis, bronchopneumonia and bronchiectasis, but contains very little more in this field than was present in The Child’s Lung. A vast amount of meticulous histological study of both infant and adult lungs is represented in this work and it contains many excellent drawings and tracings, but I find this, as Engel’s previous book, most frustrating.

Engel, well aware of the major problems in the development of the lung, gives his opinions supported by drawings and photographs of selected parts of sections. Unfortunately, when dealing with growth, particularly of the lung, it is this differing selection of fields, selected as “significant”, that has largely bedevilled the literature. Engel attempts to overcome this by the careful definition of bronchi, bronchioles, etc., but this does not help very much without some quantitative data. When he does present mathematical data it is not possible to evaluate his conclusions as he has a tendency to quote single or average figures with no statistical assessment of variation.

He makes little reference to other work on the anatomy of the lung that has been published during the past 10 years and gives the impression of not being of this place and time.

This work probably represents the limits to which classical descriptive anatomy and micro-anatomy can reach without statistical quantitative addition and it is a personal report of the observations of a classical anatomist. As such it is bound to find a place in the history of our knowledge of lung structure.

Some points might provoke disagreement, e.g. that prolonged rest cure is still important, and the use of thiacytose (1 mg./kg.) as companion drug for PAS, though children tolerate the latter quite well.

On the whole, this work provides a useful broad treatment of the subject and will be helpful to those working in this field.


This volume is devoted to the teratogenic effects of virus disease in pregnancy. The author, who is Professor of Anatomy at Zurich, reviews published statistical and experimental data and considers in details his findings in the human embryo. Rather more than half of the monograph concerns the effects of rubella in early pregnancy, and anomalies of eyes, ears, teeth and heart are described. There follows a description of pathological findings attributed to mumps, influenza, infective hepatitis and poliomyelitis in the early weeks of the gestation period. In conclusion the author considers the degree of risk to which the embryo is exposed as a result of maternal rubella, but finds it impossible to define the extent of this risk as regards the other virus infections discussed.

To explain the pathogenesis of disease of the embryo, evidence is adduced for the hypothesis that maternal viraemia is followed by invasion of the chorion and its vessels resulting in the passage of infected material into the right atrium of the embryo and from there to the left atrium. He records endocardial and myocardial changes particularly in the left atrial wall and suggests that infected endocardial or myocardial cells may be carried thence to the periphery of the systemic arterial system.

This volume makes a useful contribution to the expanding science of teratology.


This book covers all aspects of the study of primary tuberculous disease in children, particularly of the lymph node component and its effect on neighbouring tissues and organs. It is profusely illustrated with diagrams, photographs and reproductions of x-ray films, the latter forming the greatest proportion. Unfortunately these reproductions, in which solid organs appear dark, have a matt appearance, the denser parts showing a grey rather than a black shadow. Otherwise the book is well produced. The author has done full justice to the literature and has a number of valuable observations, e.g. on the location of primary foci in children and adolescents.


This well-produced monograph by the paediatric staff of Cincinnati University is designed primarily for the busy general practitioner for whom it successfully attempts to provide a concise review of current paediatric subjects.

Chapters are devoted to each of the main body systems with additional sections concerning communicable diseases and the newborn. The latter is particularly informative, but one questions the unqualified statement that “the mortality of exchange transfusions is still high”.

Although understandable, it is unfortunate that 92% of the references are to American publications and that there are one or two printing errors in the text.