

BOOK REVIEWS

Child Health and Development. 3rd ed. Edited by R. W. B. ELLIS. (Pp. ix + 485; 93 figures + 30 tables. 56s.) London: Churchill. 1962.

This new edition of Professor Ellis's well-known book is published six years after the previous edition and much of the material is new. Part I covers normal development from conception to maturity. Part II is entitled 'Social Aspects of Child Health' and includes chapters on the various child health services, education and juvenile courts. Normal biological values and legislation concerning children are the subjects of two appendices.

The editor has assembled a team of 16 experts from widely differing fields to assist him in this work. Such names as Mildred Creak, Professor F. A. E. Crew, Professor Robert Cruickshank, Anna Freud and Eileen Youngusband indicate the eminence of the contributors and the diversity of their subjects.

The two parts of the book are equal in length. Normal development is dealt with in some detail in Part I, and to some extent this section overlaps other paediatric works of a general or special nature. Readers whose interest lies mainly in the social aspects of child health might well consider that Part II, which embraces this enormous field, could have been expanded at the expense of Part I. The appendix on normal values of body substances is informative, but are the 11 pages of text, a table of weights and measures, and 58 references really necessary in a work of this type? The bibliographies and references at the end of each chapter are all extensive, in some instances unnecessarily so. The chapter on the newborn, for example, has almost 100 references!

The publishers have excelled themselves in the standard of production. Paper, printing, layout, photographs are of the highest quality. This book is good value for money—definitely a best buy!

Diseases of the Newborn. By ALEXANDER J. SCHAFER, with a section on Neonatal Cardiology, by Milton Markowitz. (Pp. 878; 358 figures + 22 tables. 140s.) London: Saunders. 1960.

Of the liveborn children who die before reaching adolescence, more than half die within the first week of life. Some of those who survive serious illness in the early days of life are subsequently found to have sustained brain damage, but it is more important that most newborn infants surviving serious illness do so unscathed.

Neonatal paediatrics has therefore much to offer in the prevention of death and disability in childhood.

Until the publication of Dr. Schaffer's book the paediatrician has had no good written guide to the care of the newborn, and even this work cannot be recommended unreservedly.

The strength of the book lies on its comprehensiveness, its many illustrations and its useful references to the literature; its weakness lies in a certain lack of authority, which is apparent despite illustrative case histories and other evidence of the author's personal experience. Phrases such as 'Some advocate . . . ; others prefer . . .' are all very well, but in many instances one seeks in vain for the author's personal opinions.

It could rightly be argued that dogmatism is not called for in the relatively unexplored field of neonatal paediatrics, but dogmatism there is, combined with a lack of those tips and wrinkles that indicate profound knowledge of a subject.

That extreme rarities are dealt with at length is welcome, but commonplace events receive too little detailed attention. Even the lengthy appendices on resuscitation and replacement transfusion omit certain details that are of great importance in practice.

The 114 chapters in the book are arranged in sections relating to bodily systems, with separate sections on Jaundice, Infections and Disorders of Nutrition. One section, that on Neonatal Cardiology, has been written by a colleague, Dr. Milton Marcowitz.

In spite of its limitations, this is the best book on neonatal paediatrics now available; it is soundly based, and one can anticipate great improvements in subsequent editions.

Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis. By ALBERT W. GROKOST, ARTHUR I. SNYDER and RALPH SCHLAEGER. (Pp. xii + 120; 44 figures + 8 tables. 60s.) London: Churchill. 1962.

The authors define Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis as a diffuse systemic disease whose clinical manifestations happen to be mainly musculo-articular and they set out to describe the various aspects of the disease as met with in the study of 110 children who attended a University Medical Centre during the period 1928-1956 and in whom the disease was sufficiently well established to fit into a clearly-defined pattern.

A description is given of the various aspects, including aetiology, pathology, differential diagnosis and treatment,