

themselves to such exact description, and this book therefore really adds very little to the understanding of children's needs and the effects of failure to supply one or more of them.

One interesting comment on the general Bowlby thesis does appear from the results, however, even in this small group. All the children except one responded immediately and rapidly on admission to hospital, where they were cared for by the general nursing staff. This means that they were looked after in hospital by a number of people and not by one single mother substitute, yet their response was dramatic. The authors regrettably fail to draw the important conclusion that a large number of children can develop normally and remain both physically and mentally healthy when looked after by a number of people at one time. Both Margaret Mead's own cross-cultural studies (1962) and other studies such as those of Terence Moore in London (1963) have shown that the care of a child may be shared between two or more people without any harm.

There is a useful summing up in the book of the literature on experimental and observational aspects of 'deprivation' and the book itself is beautifully produced and printed. Its cost, however—five dollars and seventy-five cents—is fantastic, particularly compared with the W.H.O. pamphlet which contains both more and better balanced material and costs two dollars.

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Cerebral Palsy in Children and its Treatment. By M. B. EIDINOVA and YE. N. PRAVDINA-VINARSKAYA. (Pp. xv + 193; 47 figures + 5 tables. 70s.) Oxford and London: Pergamon Press. 1963.

This translation of a Russian book on cerebral palsy will be of the greatest interest to those working with spastic children. It cannot of course be recommended as a text for less experienced readers in this country, for although it contains much sensible advice, the general approach to the subject, and especially to the neurophysiological basis of cerebral palsy, is understandably different from ours. Indeed, it is surprising that so many of the authors' ideas are in agreement with those of the English-speaking world, for the reference list indicates that nearly all their inspiration is drawn from Russian sources. Thus, of 149 references less than a score come from outside the Soviet Union, and only four from the United States or Britain.

The principal recommendations for the management of cerebral palsy are in line with modern British practice. The authors advocate prolonged and purposeful treat-

ment by a team of specialists, active participation by the child and his parents and limited use of orthopaedic operations. They write of the need for modifying exercises according to the type of cerebral palsy, of the risks of developing contractures and of the value of speech therapy. The major difference in emphasis is the Russian dependence on drugs of the anticholinesterase group. Indeed, the greater part of the book is concerned with the use of galanthamine as the basis of treatment of 76 children with cerebral palsy. Very high claims are made for this Russian drug, which is not available in this country. Thus it is said to facilitate resumption of activity by functional systems which have been inactive, which 'changes and sometimes even destroys pathological functional systems which had been created'. The drug is said to restore motor processes and to cause the disappearance of pathological slow activity from the electroencephalogram. The concept that functional reconstruction of the damaged central nervous system can take place in this way is perhaps the most interesting aspect of this Russian view of cerebral palsy.

It would be interesting to know the extent to which the methods described here are used in the U.S.S.R. and something of the organization of cerebral palsy services to the community. The book is well translated and edited, and is pleasant to read despite some of the unfamiliar terminology.

The Asthmatic Child. Psychosomatic Approach to Problems and Treatment. Edited by HENRY I. SCHNEER. (Pp. xii + 260. \$6.50; 49s.) New York and London: Harper and Row. 1963.

Doctors in practice have always been concerned at least as much with the person who is ill as with diseases that exist in unsullied purity only in the examination hall. It is a good prognostic sign for the health both of family practice and paediatrics that the child, as an individual who yet remains part of his family and community, is now increasingly attracting the interest of academic branches of the profession. The whole child, rather than artificially isolated organs or tissues, body or mind, is being studied increasingly, and reports are becoming more readily available as articles or as books. But there is an obvious temptation to jump on the band wagon, and claims for a comprehensive or psychosomatic approach are no guarantee against one-sidedness.

This book does not give a truly balanced view of the many factors that play a part in childhood asthma. A comprehensive presentation is not achieved and may not even have been intended, for the book is written by 17 psychiatrically orientated contributors and by one allergist. How many doctors would find useful in practice the psychoanalytic theory which pervades many of the chapters?—and how many can still subscribe to the view (p. 4) that 'skin tests for allergy have been solely responsible for the considerable progress made in the total management of asthma'? Though many facts of considerable interest are presented in this book, some of the theories and interpretations would raise the eyebrows of many readers, in this country at least.