

tuberculosis as well as infection of other organisms in the chest, neck and abdomen. There is a final chapter on the prevention and eradication of tuberculosis in childhood. For the record, and as a challenge which English paediatricians and Health Authorities might well note, the authors say that 'the periodic tuberculin test should be an integral part of any programme for the prevention of contagious diseases in childhood. An infant who receives immunization against smallpox, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus and poliomyelitis, should also have a tuberculin test twice a year, and tests should be part of the annual examination of the older child . . . The tuberculin test as a diagnostic aid and drug therapy to prevent progressive disease are the most important tools in the battle to make tuberculous infection and disease in children as rare as smallpox . . .'

**Praktikum der Schutzimpfungen.** Edited by Kurt Hartung. (Pp. 226; illustrated. 33s.) West Berlin: H. Hoffmann. 1962.

This paper-back monograph, dealing with the basis, practice, statistics and legal aspects of vaccination and immunization procedures, was published under the aegis of the German Green Cross, a voluntary organization for the popularization of preventive medicine.

Thirteen contributors make it into a comprehensive review of the subject aimed specifically at the German general practitioner and the medical officer in the Public Health Service. As far as the reader outside Germany is concerned its preoccupation with local conditions constitutes a major weakness of the book, although two small chapters are devoted to immunization programmes in the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. The lengthy discussion of legal questions is of interest only to the medical public within the confines of that country.

The chapters dealing with the subject matter of immunization are up to date and clearly set out. However, references at the end of the book are extremely scanty and inadequate, though the reader is offered in a few accompanying sentences the titles of three monographs on immunization, which contain an extensive review of the relevant literature.

To those expecting strict discipline in the health services, the great variation in the number of the immunized among the population of different areas of West Germany will come as a great surprise. These figures were compiled from questionnaires returned by 400 Medical Officers of Health.

It is interesting to note that in 'central' (East) Germany in addition to smallpox vaccination, immunization against poliomyelitis, diphtheria and tetanus has become compulsory since January 1961; while pertussis and B.C.G. immunization remain voluntary. However,

parents who refuse B.C.G. vaccination for their children have to express their objection in writing.

The official immunization time-table provides for the administration of B.C.G. in the first week of life, poliomyelitis vaccine in the third, fourth and fifth months, triple antigen in the sixth and seventh months and primary smallpox vaccination in the eighth month.

In West Germany where only smallpox vaccination is legally enforced, two schedules are currently being followed, one according to Kleinschmidt including the use of triple antigen and one of Hellbrugge incorporating the quadruple vaccine, containing antigens of polio, diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis.

The dangers of whooping-cough immunization are not regarded as serious or frequent enough to warrant special consideration, or to make the procedure questionable.

Useful to the German reader is a special chapter dealing with all kinds of vaccination certificates, private, official, national as well as international, and another supplying information for the traveller abroad. It gives addresses of the various institutes at which yellow-fever vaccine, cholera, plague and typhus vaccine can be obtained.

A remarkable feature of the book is an appendix on the psychological conditions and suppositions essential for a successful campaign in health education. It has the tone, terseness, categorical style and persuasiveness of modern advertising. The following sentence on page 212 may illustrate the point—'pedants, choleric, schizoids, fanatics and hypochondriacs are unfit for health education.'

On the whole this manual offers helpful and reliable guidance in matters of immunization to those who require it within the borders of Germany and, in a rather limited way, outside it.

**Handbook of Pediatric Medical Emergencies.** 3rd ed.

By ADOLPH G. DESANTIS and CHARLES VARGA and contributors. (Pp. 457; 85 figures + 50 tables + Appendix tables. 96s.) Saint Louis: C. V. Mosby; London: Henry Kimpton. 1963.

This book, first published in 1957 and now in its third edition, contains a wealth of useful information, especially for residents and registrars in paediatric units.

The chapters cover the wide field of paediatric treatment, not only that of emergencies. It is lavishly illustrated, making all techniques easily understandable.

The chapters of emergencies in the newborn and poisoning were particularly interesting and valuable. There is a useful appendix of commercial sources of poisons, and poisons found in household articles, and also a list of dosages of drugs commonly used in emergencies.

This book will certainly prove a valuable reference manual for all engaged in paediatrics.