

to know how far various perinatal events are likely to affect the ultimate prognosis of the premature infant. This information, unfortunately, Dr Drillien is not able to provide.

The text is, on the whole, easy to read though some of the tables and figures are complex. There is also an appendix containing 28 additional tables and a good index.

Donald Paterson's Sick Children: Diagnosis and Treatment, 8th ed. By RONALD LIGHTWOOD and F. S. W. BRIMBLECOMBE. (Pp. x + 724; 89 figures + 23 plates + 35 tables. 50s.) London: Cassell. 1963.

This well-known and popular textbook of paediatrics was first published in 1930 and Donald Paterson in his preface then expressed the hope that the readers would find that the description of symptoms, although concise, would be adequate. Aetiology and pathology were not neglected but, as the title suggests, the main stress has been laid on diagnosis and treatment as the surest way of making the book practical and helpful. The considerable advance in paediatrics subsequently, and particularly since 1956, when the last edition appeared, has necessitated radical revision. This has been admirably achieved by Lightwood and Brimblecombe who, while maintaining the original objectives, have skilfully incorporated much new material and also given more attention to variations in normal and emotional development. A chapter on emotional disorders contributed by Dr. Mildred Creak gives an excellent account of common deviations seen during emotional maturation and their relation to the background of family and environment, with symptomatology so commonly met with in paediatric out-patient clinics. The inclusion of a chapter on Diseases of Childhood in the Tropics from the able pen of Professor Cicely Williams is an indication of the wide appeal of the book and provides a timely reminder of the need for the alleviation of poverty, lack of education and community hygiene in developing countries. The separate appendixes on the use of antibiotics, steroids, drug dosage, electrolyte control, norms of physical growth, special diets and legislation concerning children should also prove invaluable to the student of paediatrics and enhance the value of the textbook for those studying for the Diploma in Child Health.

Survey of Clinical Paediatrics. 4th ed. By L. B. SLOBODY and E. WASSERMAN. (Pp. x + 541; 5 figures + 33 tables. 89s.) New York: McGraw-Hill. 1963.

The title is misleading: this book is a synopsis rather than a survey, and the emphasis is hardly clinical.

It has the virtues of a synopsis. The writing and the format are clear; a great deal of information is compressed in simple tables and lists; and it is reasonably up to date. It has also the faults of a synopsis. There is the common sharp (but artificial) separation of interrelated aspects of the sick child. A mass of data is often presented without perspective. Investigations, such as radiographs, are

described without discussion of their indications; and under treatment are found such vague statements as 'adrenal corticosteroids may be tried' and 'these agents [tranquillizers] have been used as adjuncts in therapy for various behaviour disorders, hyperactive states, and psychoses in children'. The word 'pain' does not appear in the index. 'Review Questions', at the end of each chapter, are designed to test the reader's assimilation of the information presented.

This book would probably be useful to family paediatricians, who can themselves provide perspective based on experience, on occasions when they want to make sure that some important point has not been omitted in diagnosis or management.

Year Book of Pediatrics, 1963-64 (Year Book Series).

Edited by SYDNEY S. GELLIS. (pp. 504; 111 figures + tables. 64s.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers; London: Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books). 1964.

Once again this book gives us the pick of the papers for the last year. The selection is less predominantly American than in previous editions. A rough count gives about 60% of papers from North American journals, 15% from the United Kingdom, 8% from France, and 7% from the Scandinavian countries. Many readers in this country will have kept reasonably up to date with journals published here, but few can have had the time and opportunity to read all that they would like to from other countries, so this annual survey of the literature is always welcome. There is much more in the book, however, than a mere précis of selected papers. The editorial comment, often based on personal experience of cases, is always pertinent and adds greatly to the interest and pleasure.

The cost may seem rather high for a book of its size, but the wide range of subjects covered, the wealth of information, and the excellence of its presentation and comment make it a bargain that few can afford to miss.

A Manual of Paediatrics for Students and Practitioners in South East Asia. Edited by PINCHAS ROBINSON with the collaboration of 54 contributors and in consultation with Arvid Wallgren. (pp. xiv + 504. Rs. 9.00). Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, New Delhi: Orient Longmans. 1963.

This is the second edition of a book first published in 1957. There are 60 contributors, half of whom live and work in the territories of the title; the rest are American or European. The terms of reference are wide indeed, and in fact few areas of paediatrics are left unexplored; system by system, and specialty by specialty, the realm of childhood disorders, physical, emotional, medical, tropical and surgical are relentlessly examined, with short but often penetrating forays into pathology, nutrition, public health and genetics. The commendably low sale price dictates a rather flat layout, and after 500 pages the meagre use of capitals and generally unemphatic presentation, seems to merge valley with mountain,