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 Treat-
ment, 8th ed. By RONALD LIGHTWOOD and F. S. W.
BRIMBLECOMBE. (Pp. x + 724; 89 figures + 23 plates

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 consider-
able advance in paediatrics subsequently, and particularly
since 1956, when the last edition appeared, has necessi-
tated radical revision. This has been admirably achieved
by Lightwood and Brimblecombe who, while maintaining
the original objectives, have skillfully 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 sympto-
matology 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 appendices 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

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;

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,

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,
malaria with the chigger flea, so that the view obtained is distant and aloof, paediatrics from the stratosphere so-to-say. Here and there it is bewildering to find patches of extraordinary clarity and detail, as in the chapter on inborn errors of metabolism, where the level of view has dropped suddenly to the roof-tops.

What a doctor in the field, beleaguered by living and dying children, will make of the book must depend so much on his sophistication. Here is certainly no 'Teach Yourself Tropical Paediatrics'. The reader is assumed to have the power to carry diagnosis to the point where an index classified in disease headings can take over. No use to look here for a discussion of possible causes when faced, for example, with a young Indian child with ascites. In spite of its eclectic authorship the book is informed by a detached and 'western' outlook upon medicine, evident as much by the 18-month child building a tower of four cubes, as by the absence of any clinical account of rabies or neonatal tetanus, and its five types of glycogen storage disease.

The book impresses more as a stupendous feat of *magnus in parvo*, than as a useful manual for the worker in South East Asia. It palpably lacks the unifying breath of experience in the field, and so is disappointing and frustrating. Perhaps a practical manual was not intended, but is that not the greater need?


This book is a collection of papers given at a seminar on the prevention of antenatal and perinatal cerebral lesions held at the International Children's Centre in Paris in May 1961. The contributions range from discussions on types and frequency of cerebral lesions and their aetiology to chromosome anomalies; from obstetrical management of the delivery of a premature baby to discussions on diabetes and prediabetes. The standard is high throughout. The section on causes of cerebral palsy of pre- and perinatal origin by Polani deserves particular mention as does that on the genetic encephalopathies by Lamy et al. Bickel, writing on the prevention of cerebral lesions in enzynopathies, discusses phenylketonuria and galactosaemia at length but fails to give guidance in practical aspects of dietary management Hagbard's contribution on diabetes is of interest particularly as the incidence of foetal malformation quoted by him (6%) is somewhat higher than in other series. Mollison's paper on foetomaternal incompatibility and the prevention of kernicterus usefully summarizes recent trends in the assessment and treatment of iso-immunized infants.

Printing, layout and production of the book are of the excellent standard that one has come to take for granted from these publishers. A pity only that two years elapsed before it reached the medical reader, and that at S.Fr./DM64., its price is so high.


On first acquaintance this book looks as though it might provide an authoritative guide to the everyday problems of convulsions in paediatric practice; but this is not the case. As the sub-title indicates it is instead an explanation of the ketogenic diet, expanded by the addition of some general material. For those who are convinced of the value of the diet the details could be valuable, but the evidence that it is a major factor in the control of epilepsy seems insufficient to convince many doubters. Judged as a general review the book is unsatisfactory. The case material seems to have been limited by the very existence of the clinic in which the author works. I was surprised that there was, for instance, no mention of the problem of nocturnal epilepsy. The section on phenylketonuria is very much out of date, and so too is the apparent advocacy of bromide as a major anti-convulsant. I was sorry to see that tap-water enemas were even mentioned as a measure for reducing the temperature in febrile convulsions. The chapter on photogenic convulsions was useful, and so were those on genetics and mental retardation, but the advocacy of an electroencephalogram for every child with a convulsive episode errs strongly on the side of over-investigation.

Although well produced this is a disappointing work, and at its price cannot be seriously recommended as a textbook.


This volume is the first to be published of a series of *Monographs on Child Psychiatry*, edited by Ernest Harms, well-known founder and editor of a former journal, The Nervous Child. These monographs will, it is hoped, fulfil more satisfactorily one of the functions of that journal, namely to present symposia on various problems of special interest in the field of child psychiatry.

The purpose of this present publication is, in the words of Dr Harold A. Abramson's Introduction, 'to present a broad view which recognizes that a merger between the concepts of immunology and psychiatry in the field of allergy has occurred and that immunological concepts are necessary but not sufficient to treat the total patient'. It is a collection of papers by competent and well-known authorities in these fields.

The first chapter gives a review of the published work dealing with emotional factors in the aetiology of allergic disease and with the psychotherapeutic approach in treatment. In the next two chapters the diagnosis of allergic disease and hypersensitivity reaction mechanisms are discussed from the physical aspect. The following chapter gives a very full and complete presentation by Dr Harold Michal-Smith of psychological aspects of the problem of allergy; this again is mainly a review of the