

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 *magnum 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?

Seminar on the Prevention of Antenatal and Perinatal Cerebral Lesions. Documents collected by J. FABIA. (*Modern problems in pediatrics. VIII.* Edited by A. HOTTINGER and H. BERGER.) (Pp. xii + 388; 74 figures + 41 tables. 1963) Basel and New York: S. Karger. 1963.

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 enzymopathies, 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 kernikterus 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.

Convulsive Disorders in Children with Reference to Treatment with Ketogenic Diet. By HADDOW M. KEITH. Pp. vi + 311; 33 figures + 23 tables. 85s.) London Churchill. 1963.

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.

Somatic and Psychiatric Aspects of Childhood Allergies. International Series of Monographs on Child Psychiatry. Edited by E. HARMS. (Pp. x + 292; 2 figures + 5 tables. 70s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1963.

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