

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

work of others. There follows a group of paediatric contributions; the first, partly speculative, on the prophylaxis of allergic disease in infancy and childhood and then a useful paper on pollinosis. There are two lengthy chapters by dedicated paediatric allergists on food-induced allergies and gastro-intestinal allergy, a valuable chapter on steroid therapy, and a short chapter—the most succinct in the book by William P. Buffum—on asthma in infancy.

The rest of the book—nearly half—contains further contributions by psychiatrists and psychologists. Abramson introduces and develops his valuable concept of parental engulfment as the basic emotional problem in asthma, and he contrasts it with the psychoanalytic theory of maternal rejection propounded by French and Alexander some 20 years ago. He maintains that the rejection theory does not fully explain all the phenomena—especially that of remission of asthma following ‘parentectomy’. He also finds his own concept much more acceptable to parents and, therefore, useful in therapy. There is no doubt that it approximates to the idea of the asthmatic’s predicament held by many clinicians in this country.

There follows a fascinating account by L. Bernstein and others of the organization and functions of the psychological services at the Jewish National Home for Asthmatic Children. This Home for 150 children with intractable asthma (that is asthma that has not yielded to any other treatment) is based on the idea of parentectomy. The diagnostic and therapeutic approach is multi-disciplinary. The training and research programmes are impressive. The money needed to finance this gigantic scheme is any one’s guess; but this is surely the kind of work that must be done if solid progress is to be made in such a difficult field.

Among the other few chapters, there is one of special interest by M. Murray Peshkin and H. A. Abramson on group therapy in New York with the parents of children in residence in Denver, 2,000 miles away. This gives much insight into what happens with parents when their children are removed from them and what happens when they return some two years later.

This book should be welcomed by paediatricians and child psychiatrists who have a special interest in allergic disease as a truly psychosomatic problem. That is not to say, however, that it is altogether comfortable reading. The papers are variable in quality and they sometimes overlap in content. More detail is given about allergy than is easily assimilable by the average psychiatrist. Asthma, and to a less extent eczema, are most ably dealt with, and the result is impressive. But the gastro-intestinal and other allergies have received too little attention from psychiatrists to set against the detailed work done and theories propounded by immunologists.

Some may regret that Abramson has called his parental engulfment theory ‘The Cronus Complex’. It is a pity that Oedipal rivalry should lead us further into Greek mythology when our own language can serve so well to express what is meant!

A very full bibliography follows each chapter, but there is no index. Thus, there is a useful chapter on steroid

therapy and steroid dependence; but many valuable references to this subject elsewhere can only be found by thumbing through the book.

None the less this book is to be highly recommended to all who are interested in the subject, and Ernest Harms has earned our thanks for this first volume of a series designed to present a multi-disciplinary approach in subjects where this is so clearly needed.

Acute Hemiplegia in Childhood. A Report of a Study Group Held at Clevedon April 20-22, 1961. Little Club Clinics in Developmental medicine No. 6.) Edited by MARTIN BAX and ROSS MITCHELL. (Pp. 120; illustrated. 17s. 6d.) London: National Spastics Society (Medical Education and Information Unit) in association with William Heinemann Medical Books, London 1962.

This, the sixth of the enterprising Little Club Clinics in Developmental Medicine, is the report of a small group of paediatricians, neurologists and pathologists who met to discuss all aspects of acute hemiplegia in childhood. There are 14 original papers, and the discussions, which presumably followed each, are condensed and grouped together at the end of the volume. There seem to have been no wild disagreements amongst the participants. The dangers of early carotid angiography are allowed to be small compared with its diagnostic benefits, but what the benefits of exact diagnosis are is unclear.

Dehydration, anticoagulants and hypothermia are fully discussed, but no one of the participants seems to be certain of the circumstances in which any one of these forms of treatment should be used.

Nevertheless the book which contains about 200 references is a useful summary of our present state of ignorance on this baffling subject.

Living with Epileptic Seizures. By SAMUEL LIVINGSTON. Assisted by IRVING M. PRUCE. (Pp. xix + 348; 11 figures + 21 tables. \$6.50) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

‘The primary purpose of this book’ says the author ‘is to present pertinent information relative to epilepsy to non-medical persons such as patients and/or their parents, educators and counsellors (sic), as well as to the medical profession.’ For the tautological ‘pertinent’ one should perhaps read ‘suitable’; and is it suitable for the recipient of an anti-convulsant drug to know that there are 33 possible outward reactions? The author disarms the writer by stating his belief that the epileptic patient should know as much as possible about the various therapeutic agents and of the recent advances made in the treatment of epilepsy, and by implicitly condemning the practice of concealment. While the reviewer is in general sympathy with this attitude, he cannot help feeling that ‘the truth and nothing but the truth, but not necessarily the whole truth’ is a useful maxim in doctor-patient relations.

In fact this is a thoroughly useful textbook for the doctor covering all aspects of the epileptics’ aetiology