

Contribution à L'Étude du Métabolisme Énergétique de L'Enfant. Données Physiologiques et Applications Cliniques. By H. LOEB. Pp. 173; 37 figures + 17 tables. 350-Frs.B.) Brussels: Editions Arscia; Paris: Librairie Maloine. 1963.

The title of this monograph is somewhat misleading. It is concerned with the blood levels of glucose for intravenous glucose tolerance tests in children from the age of 4 days to puberty; it is also concerned with the level of the non-esterified fatty acids after a period of fasting. These matters have been investigated both in normal infants and children, and also in certain disturbances such as cyclical vomiting and in certain inborn errors of metabolism. The value of this book seems to lie in the very large amount of published data on very many subjects, but it will be a pity if its title does not attract the attention of those who are concerned with carbohydrate and lipid metabolism in childhood.

Biochemical Findings in the Differential Diagnosis of Internal Diseases. Edited by R. SCHOEN and H. SÜNDHOF. (Pp. xvi + 428; 41 figures + 91 tables. 110s.) Amsterdam, London, New York: Elsevier. 1963.

This book is an English translation of 'Biochemische Befunde in der differential Diagnose innerer Krankheiten'. The purpose of this book is wholly admirable since it has been written 'to help the clinician make proper use of the laboratory'. The editors have attempted to classify the important biochemical findings in internal diseases, since clinical chemistry is playing an increasing role in medicine.

Unfortunately, classification has been carried too far and has resulted in inaccuracies and, indeed, in frankly incorrect statements. If the results of chemical estimations were as clear cut as this book implies, the clinician's task would indeed be an easy one! This criticism is not true of the whole of the book and the chapters on liver and renal diseases are helpful.

Some of the material which is included is out of date, e.g. biological methods that have now been replaced by chemical estimations.

The book would not be very helpful to paediatricians since it is orientated towards adult medicine. The inborn errors are dealt with only briefly, and statements on such topics as lactosuria and sucrosuria are incorrect as far as children are concerned.

Magen-Darm Erkrankungen bei Kindern. Postgraduate Courses in Pediatrics. Edited by E. ROSSI. Vol. 7-8: (Pp. ii + 150; 65 figures + 19 tables. S.Fr./DM. 24.) Basel and New York: S. Karger. 1963.

'Magen-Darm Erkrankungen bei Kindern' comprises volumes 7 and 8 in the series of 'Postgraduate courses in Pediatrics' edited by Professor E. Rossi, head of the University Children's Clinic in Bern. Not unnaturally 5 of the 10 chapters are written by Bernese contributors, while the others come from Zürich, Basel and Hamburg.

Although these volumes are largely meant for the German-speaking paediatrician in practice without

hospital responsibilities, they are of a standard high enough to offer a great deal even to the consultant paediatrician. Aimed at providing an up-to-date review of certain disease problems and at offering guidance as far as modern treatment is concerned, they certainly succeed in their task. Advances in physiology, biochemistry and radiology are included where these have added to our understanding of disturbances of the alimentary tract.

Helpful also are the well-selected references to recent literature at the end of the chapters, but for no apparent reason they are omitted after the article by K. H. Schafer on painful abdominal syndromes in childhood, after Barandun's contribution on 'protein losing enteropathy' and Hottinger's account of coeliac disease. What is more on page 101 there is a photograph of the most appetizing cakes and biscuits made of gliadin-free flour, according to recipes published by H. Berger; but alas the appetite must remain unsatisfied because of the missing references.

Of the many x-ray reproductions the majority are good, some are fair and a few are poor, but even in these an arrow pointing towards the diagnostic finding might have been of help.

Radiological examination of the alimentary tract seems to have been used successfully by Schafer in the elucidation of the vexing problem of abdominal pain in children and positive results were obtained in 80%. Special consideration is given to the 'non-sclerosing terminal ileitis' or Golden's disease (a condition that is probably synonymous with acute mesenteric adenitis) and surprisingly to its x-ray diagnosis.

The print is pleasing, the arrangement of the subject matter clear, but there is no index, only a list of contents.

On the whole the volume makes useful and rewarding reading.

Tuberculosis in Children. Evolution—Control—Treatment. By F. J. W. MILLER, R. M. E. SEAL and MARY D. TAYLOR. (Pp. xii + 615; 119 figures + 6 coloured plates + 86 tables. 120s.) London: Churchill. 1963.

As the story of tuberculosis unfolds in the pages of this splendid book older physicians will recall vigorous disputes about the pathogenesis of clinical and radiological signs while some younger physicians, who read carefully, may sense something of the excitement of these intellectual tussles. Even among the authors of the book some divergences can be found, the medical group favouring only antibiotics and steroids in the treatment of emphysema, segmental lesions and bronchial erosions, while their surgical colleagues recommend surgical evacuation of caseous glands in the same conditions. Nor would all paediatricians agree that a segmental lesion is best regarded as an aspiration tuberculous pneumonia and that pressure from enlarged nodes with simple absorption collapse is a very uncommon cause of segmental lesions.

The thoroughness of investigation and follow-up which is described and practised by this experienced team must command immense respect and establishes their authority