BOOK REVIEWS


The author in his preface states that this book is intended for medical students and general practitioners. By convention this means a book that will be helpful for passing final examinations and little else. There is an index but no bibliography, it being assumed presumably that the student is not ready to use a library and that a general practitioner is too busy. Considerable name dropping throughout the text and comments about 'recent work' without references impress the reader that the author is familiar with new developments and original work without assisting the student to exercise his curiosity or critical faculties. More serious is the implication in works of this nature that clinical medicine is divorced from anatomy, physiology, and other basic sciences, and this book suffers from limiting its scope to clinical description and dogmatic teaching on therapy. Surely the first need of both medical student and practitioner is a sound appreciation of the general principles and philosophy of a specialty, and this requirement is scantily met by this book.

However it is perhaps more fair to compare Dr. Jolly's book with books that are similar in concept, size, and scope. His is clearly written, up to date, attractively presented, and on the whole the illustrations are well chosen to represent conditions difficult to describe in words. The common error of providing illustrations of only gross pathology is avoided, but it is a little difficult to understand why one of the precious colour plates was chosen to represent traumatic cyanosis when no cyanosis is visible, and the other shows 'mongol blue spots', a condition that shows well in black and white.

It is easy to criticize short books because opinions are bound to differ as to what should be included and what omitted. Dr. Jolly has made life difficult for himself by including much material mainly relevant to underdeveloped countries. Thus congenital syphilis is given more space than enuresis, but in the description of gastroenteritis no mention is made of hypertonic dehydration. He has placed some conditions misleadingly, for instance lactose and sucrose intolerance are included in the chapter on mental retardation. General practitioners require practical advice, and it is pointless to stress the necessity for early diagnosis of deafness without indicating how hearing may be tested in the young child. The chapter on poisoning is inadequate and, except for ferrous sulphate poisoning, the value of emesis as the most practical and effective immediate general treatment is not mentioned. Dogmatism makes for effective teaching but is carried too far when the statement is twice made that the parents of a mongol child should not be told soon after birth but 'the fact should be slowly broken' (author's split infinitive) over a period of weeks or months. Many general practitioners and paediatricians regard this practice as deceitful and often unworkable, and are not convinced that 'a mental breakdown will be precipitated'.

Medical students look for scientific accuracy even in books written by clinicians. Is it true that 'excess vitamin K causes haemolysis andhyperbilirubinaemia', that 'sulphonamides increase the liability to hyperbilirubinaemia', or that respiratory acidosis can be corrected by bicarbonate therapy? Such slipshod biochemistry in a book of this type is likely to reinforce the too prevalent idea that paediatrics, when not preoccupied with the trivial, is a form of clinical philately.


The appearance of a second edition of this excellent book is timely indeed since so much new knowledge has been gained in the past ten years concerning the physiology as well as the pathology of the foetus and newborn. The reader already familiar with the contents of the first edition will find much new information that the author has critically appraised and been able to incorporate within the format of the original book; this has been achieved, however, by a considerable expansion in volume, nearly all chapters being lengthened by as much as a half, a few having been doubled, and a new chapter entitled 'the blood constituents and adaptation to extra-uterine life', being added.

It is difficult to single out any individual chapter for especial praise, although mention may be made of the section dealing with the pathology of the placenta; this was one of the best features of the first edition, and once again the high standard is maintained, the difficulties of interpretation by practising pathologists are squarely faced, and the concept of a 'placental reserve' seems to be a useful one. In the new chapter mentioned above the
modern understanding of the metabolism of bile pigments and its application to the problems of erythroblastosis and kernicterus are clearly unfolded.

If the purchaser of “Foetal and Neonatal Pathology” is intending to acquire a textbook in which a search will be successful in obtaining something informative on almost any aspect or detail of the pathology of this field, then he will not be disappointed; this is a comprehensive account of the subject. Nevertheless it is not a complete account; the covers of a single volume could scarcely be expected to enclose the exhaustive compilation that would nowadays be needed. Thus the pathologist looking to find a fully illustrated account of the histology of microgyria, or even of galactosaemia, may feel disappointed; in other words, this is neither an atlas nor a laboratory manual. The strength of this book lies in the skill with which Dr. Morrison has presented both clinician and pathologist with a discipline of thought that will guide them and illuminate their pronouncements when they are confronted with the day-to-day problems arising in the course of teaching or the practice of perinatal physiology or pathology.

Finally, this reviewer can fully endorse the publisher’s statement that ‘pathologists . . ., paediatricians and obstetricians will find this book very interesting and instructive reading and a most useful source of references’, and would add that this work is indeed a non-pareil among textbooks of pathology.


The central themes of this monograph are the auditory approach to the training of deaf children, the need for early recognition of deafness, and the utilization of the remaining hearing.

It should be read by everyone who has to deal with children whether belonging to the medical profession, or those professions that provide its ancillary services. Perhaps the authors are a little over-optimistic about the paucity of children who will fail to respond to their method of auditory training, but this is a good fault and one shared by most pioneers. Without it new methods and new theories would seldom be adopted.

It gives a thorough survey of deafness in children stating all its known causes. The descriptions of the varied syndromes where deafness occurs are useful.

The chapters on the methods of testing hearing in young infants are excellent and well illustrated, and they show how by early recognition of deafness and the utilization of the remaining hearing, even the severely deafened child can be taught to talk and take his place in normal school and adult life, provided the training is started early enough. Diagnosis should be established before the first year is over, and when established or suspected, a hearing aid should be fitted even at the age of only a few months. If any doubt exists as to deafness, no harm can be done by fitting a hearing aid, but its absence may permanently deprive the child of learning speech properly if the deafness is not helped during the period when the child normally learns to speak.

A child who is deaf must be taught to hear, and therefore the deafness will generally be found to be less severe after training than originally suspected.

There is a very useful chapter on hearing aids. A plea is made for something stronger than the Medresco and also for automatic volume control where recruitment is present, as it so often is in severely deaf children.

An aid in each ear is often required, and perhaps we should look at it as we do in correcting vision where we would never, on account of economy, think of giving glasses for one eye only.

To sum up, the work is a well-substantiated plea for the early recognition of deafness, and for the aural training of children so affected.


Great advances have been made in recent years in the early detection of deafness in children and in the provision of small, powerful hearing aids. The value of these advances is, however, limited unless they are accompanied by immediate educational help to the child concerned. As with all handicapped children, the severely deaf child has to be painstakingly taught those skills that come quite easily to the ordinary child. In the first place the severely deaf child has to be taught to hear, that is to make use of the residue of hearing that most of them have, with the help of a hearing aid and other amplifiers. Then they have to be taught the significance of what they hear and so develop language.

The emphasis in this very practical book, written by a teacher of deaf of great experience, is on the development of spoken language as the keystone of the deaf child’s education. This training in language starts as soon as deafness is diagnosed, and since this is likely to be below the age of 18 months nowadays, the part that the parents must play, as the author often emphasizes, is very important. Many useful teaching techniques are described; techniques that can be integrated with the child’s everyday life and made fully meaningful to him.

Although the subject of pre-school deaf management is well covered in the U.K. by such writers as the Ewings, many parents, teachers, and audiologists, will find this book most helpful, particularly in respect of the detailed teaching techniques. It is a long and detailed work, necessarily so because the teaching of language to the severely deaf child is a long and detailed process. Without this teaching the severely deaf child can barely become human.


In their preface, the authors state ‘The Aphasia Handbook has been designed for anyone who may encounter the problem of retraining an aphasic—