book is fully comprehensive and every possible aspect of infection has been covered, ranging from the common fevers to the rare tropical illnesses and including protozoal infections and parasitical infections. Every chapter is preceded by an interesting historical survey. Every subject is dealt with in minute detail and viewed from every possible aspect, including bacteriology or virology, pathology, and histology, as well as clinical features and therapy.

For example, under poliomyelitis, it is not only the epidemiology and clinical picture that are discussed, but the authors deal with the details of nursing measures for the acute case, the various forms of assisted respiration for the patient with bulbar palsy, and the surgical, orthopaedic, and physical medicine aspects of the chronic case. Thus, information that normally can be found only by consulting several textbooks written from the point of view of the separate disciplines of medicine are here contained in one place. By following this practice a certain amount of repetition is inevitable. Thus infantile gastro-enteritis due to enteropathogenic Escherichia coli and due to salmonella is dealt with in two separate chapters. Or, to cite another example of this repetition, no less than 12 separate Rickettsial infections are described in detail.

Many photographs, tables, and graphs as well as illustrative case abstracts help to make the information assimilable in spite of the detail. For instance, in the chapter on tuberculosis there is an x-ray picture of every form and complication of the primary tuberculous infection of childhood. The international literature is quoted widely, and there is a comprehensive bibliography at the end of each chapter.

For the reader who looks for a textbook containing the maximum information including the proverbial 'small print' in one place, this work is to be recommended, and, when all the volumes have been published, they will constitute a veritable reference library of paediatrics. However, one cannot help asking whether a work of this kind has a place in the context of modern conditions. The student needs shorter textbooks and the paediatrician will prefer to consult the literature itself when he seeks more information about any subject. Over the years, it will prove an impossible task to keep a work of this size and dimension really up to date.

**NEWER PROBLEMS IN INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF INFANCY**

This slim paper bound volume consists of a number of review articles written by different authors on various aspects of infectious diseases. It is one of a series of a 'Postgraduate Course' in paediatrics, and thus the form and presentation of each article is that of a lecture.

In the introductory chapter the author discusses recent knowledge about the general mechanism of infection in relation to the cellular and humoral defense mechanism of the body, and reviews the curious interrelation of resistance and hypersensitivity. Three chapters deal with virology, and in view of the rapid advances in that field over recent years should prove especially useful to the busy paediatrician.

**PROBLEMES ACTUELS DE NEPHROLOGIE INFANTILE**

This is a superb book. The authors have succeeded in distilling the substance of the world literature and discussing it in the light of their own very considerable experience of renal disease in childhood. The book stems from a course on renal topics given at the International Children's Centre in February 1961 and for that reason concentrates on those subjects that are less well covered in existing textbooks. In particular they are concerned with the medical aspects of kidney function rather than the surgical problems of urology.

The chapters on renal tubular dysfunction are exceptionally clear and comprehensive. There are chapters devoted to familial hypophosphataemic rickets, nephrogenic diabetes insipidus, idiopathic renal acidosis, chronic hypokalaemia, hypercalcuria as well as a section discussing the multifactorial tubular anomalies with their profusion of eponyms, the de Toni-Debré-Fanconi syndrome, Lowe's syndrome, those described by Luder and Sheldon, Baber and Dent, which all receive attention. Much use is made of well-constructed charts to illustrate the principal characteristics of each condition and equally useful are the tables that summarize the findings of all the major papers on each subject. This is a method of depicting earlier workers' conclusions that could, with advantage, be used more widely.

The section on the kidney of the newborn consists of only five pages and this illustrates not only the author's ability to write with concise precision but also the paucity of information about renal function at this very important time. The second part of the book is taken up with a detailed review of treatment. This is more diffuse than the rest of the book and might in part be open to criticism by workers orientated in an Anglo-American setting. As befits a French textbook considerable attention is given to diet and a low salt régime sounds much more enticing when it contains suggestions such as 'Le riz peut être pris sous forme d'entremets sucé parfumé au caramal ou à la vanille'.

**BOOK REVIEWS**

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