BOOK REVIEWS

raised titres for both haemagglutinating and complement-fixing techniques. In addition they found raised protein-bound iodine as well as butanol extractable iodine (B.E.I.) levels to be characteristic, though not pathognomonic. The authors consider that it is quite possible that damage to the thyroid gland, perhaps a virus infection, may initiate escape of thyroid antigens from the gland, so allowing an auto-immune process to become established. They consider the diagnosis to be of considerable importance in that, on the one hand, the condition is not unlikely to go on to complete destruction of the gland, and on the other, that treatment with dried thyroid extract for at least two years is an effective therapeutic regime.

This review is undoubtedly authoritative and its conclusions sound. Its reading is made unnecessarily difficult by a rather oblique style of writing, by tables that are difficult to understand because of inadequate captioning, and by occasional unnecessary mistakes. On page 194, for instance, the age range of a group of children is given as 'between 5 and 11 years with a peak at 11 years'; when it is clear that the range is, in fact, between 5 and 17 years; and in Table 4 a printer's error has allowed the expression µg./100 ml. to slip down a line, where it follows the ratio of P.B.I./B.E.I. where it would be meaningless.

The final article is on the 'Common Nutritional Disorders of Childhood in the Tropics' by Professor C. C. de Silva of Ceylon. This is a straightforward statement of the problem of protein—calorie malnutrition in developing countries and in the tropics and sub-tropics generally. It does not claim to contain new information or even new ideas, but it re-states in a very readable form what has been said many times before by workers in all these countries, and in authoritative pamphlets and books issued by such organizations as W.H.O. and U.N.E.S.C.O. It is a good thing that this review should appear in this series and be widely read by paediatricians in those other countries that Professor de Silva calls 'the West' and whose superior attitude, he says, 'cuts no ice'.


In 1953 Dr. Ingram began to study a representative group of 208 children with cerebral palsy who had been born in Edinburgh during the previous 15 years. His primary aims were to ascertain the prevalence of cerebral palsy in Edinburgh and to study its causes and its effects on patients and their families, but his increasing dissatisfaction with the classifications of cerebral palsy current at that time led him to an extensive review of the literature. When his own classification by neurological syndromes finally emerged it was based on that described by Freud 60 years previously, with modifications made necessary by recent advances in knowledge.

Dr. Ingram describes and defends his classification in the first chapter of this book. Subsequent chapters review the literature about each category of cerebral palsy, and describe the etiological and clinical findings in Dr. Ingram's own representative group. The text contains references to the views of more than 800 writers. The European literature is well represented and of particular interest is the very clear presentation of the views of many German writers, which Dr. Ingram acknowledges is the result of his wife's ability not only to translate but to make sense of them.

Of particular interest in the clinical sections of the book is the description of the sequence of changes that occurs in the neurological manifestations of diplegia in the early years of life, from the early hypotonic stage seen in the first few weeks after birth, through the dystonic stage to the spastic or rigid stage at 2 or 3 years of age. In the last two chapters Miss Stella Jameson, Social Worker, presents the findings of a recent study of the fate of the patients examined ten years earlier.

This book speaks with authority. Within its 500 pages there is a mass of information, yet it is always readable. It is well tabulated and superbly illustrated. All doctors interested in developmental medicine will value it highly and think that it is cheap at the price.