The inclusion of dietetics and simple explanations of drug dosages are of value, especially when these subjects are mostly dealt with by a special department. Equipment and methods used may not be universal, but the basic reasons for their use give adequate guidance to any nurse, student, or otherwise. We look forward to adding this book to our shelves, and we especially value the references at the end of each chapter, many of them being to the Nursing Times and other nursing periodicals.


A second edition of this book is welcome at a time when the rapid advance in paediatric surgery can only succeed with the help of the well-trained paediatric nurse. Extensive revision has eliminated many faults of the first edition but the chapters on general topics are still not quite so successful as those on specific disorders. The conversational style and attempts to simplify tend sometimes to result in verbosity and even ambiguity. In the important new chapter on neonatal surgery, measurement of blood loss 'by colour' presumably means haemoglobin estimation, a term with which every reader of this book is surely familiar.

Valuable new sections on intestinal obstruction, cardiac surgery, and locomotor disorders concisely cover an adequate range of conditions, and the very high standard of illustration is maintained. More practical guidance on details of nursing care might profitably be included in the next edition, especially where the nurse might expect to benefit from these authors' special experience, e.g. the pre-operative care of the membranous sac in exomphalos and meningomyelecele.

Despite these criticisms the authors have fulfilled their stated intention, 'to direct the nurse's attention to the fundamental features of those surgical conditions of childhood with which she will most commonly deal' and the very good printing and general lay-out add greatly to the attraction of this book.