It seems fair comment to say that since this is really no longer a short cut to learning paediatrics, the book now has to compete with several other possible choices for the medical student’s reading. It has some way to go in future editions before it comes near to leading the field.


This book is magnificent. Dare one use the word ‘colossal’? 700 pages (all glossy) on paediatric nursing. How the Germans can produce a book of this quality for roughly £3 10s. 0d. is a mystery. There are 353 photographs—the black and white ones good, the coloured often indifferent. As this is the eighth edition since 1939 this book clearly is the standard text, and rightly so. Its scope is astonishing. Not only is the nursing care of the healthy and the ill child covered, but there are also clearly written chapters on anatomy and physiology, genetics, diseases of childhood, a chapter on surgical emergencies and aftercare, chapters on anaesthesia, pharmacology, and dietetics, and even a chapter on legal questions as they apply to mother and child.

This is a splendid book and no major criticism is called for. There are, however, a number of minor points and omissions which, one hopes, will be corrected in the next edition. Does anyone still use a woollen truss to control an inguinal hernia? Why three photographs showing the strapping of an umbilical hernia when the author has already agreed that these hernias disappear spontaneously? Why five pages on counter-irritants and poultices—in 1964? Don’t the Germans use hyaluronidase or scalp vein needles? Do they really still administer oxygen by funnel? Do they really use that Heath Robinson contraption on p. 515 when a modern aerosol dispenser is described on p. 516? Why an ulcer diet but no mention of phenylketonuria? Is the ‘standard’ artificial feed of German babies really half milk, half pap, and 5% sugar merely because Czerny described Milchnährscheiden in 1919? Can German babies really not digest an egg-yolk before 6 months, nor meat before 10 months? How odd! Why no mention of mother regard and the social smile? And why ever no mention of the fact that children in hospital like to be visited by their parents? One last, rather snide remark: in the section dealing with the nurse’s duties when a child has died, why no mention of the correct procedure when the child was Jewish?


Paediatric Nursing Procedures covers the whole range of work encountered by the nurse working in a paediatric ward. The information is thoughtfully explained and systematically covered with a realistic approach.

Illustrations and diagrams give a clear picture where words are inadequate. The simplest procedures, which may yet be understood with difficulty by the student, are included.

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 meningomyelocele.

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.