children's hospital and department. It will not replace Ford but it is a useful supplement and a not inconsiderable competitor.


Years of ownership of successive editions of 'Griffith-Mitchell' and later 'Nelson' (usually of two copies, one at home and one at hospital), and the countless times your reviewer has turned to the book to look up facts, has gradually engendered in him a profound admiration for its qualities. These qualities are the comprehensive cover of the subject, so that it is rare not to find what one needs in the index; the balanced presentation of difficult, obscure, or controversial subjects; the intelligent choice of relatively few but key references; the remarkably uniform and effective literary style, terse without being staccato; and the 'up-to-dateness' made possible by a new edition every five years or so. The editor's ability to impose these qualities on all 85 contributors is indeed marvellous.

The new (8th) edition will certainly maintain the richly deserved success of its predecessors.


On setting out to write a textbook, the author's first rule should be to keep clearly in mind who his readers are going to be, and whom he is aiming to instruct. It is almost impossible to write effectively for more than one class of reader at once, but Professor Hutchison has aimed at doing so. He states that his intention was to produce a book intermediate in size between the usual undergraduate text and the large work of reference, yet covering the problems of the paediatrician and the family doctor. In the event he has written a textbook, parts of which are sufficiently detailed to be of use to the paediatrician (e.g. the clearly explained biochemistry of the metabolic disorders) but most of which is likely to be more valuable for the paediatric house officer or postgraduate student with some previous knowledge of paediatrics. Surely it is not a family doctor's book, for the author has purposely omitted so much that would be of importance for him? There is no section on the common infectious fevers, skin diseases or ear and eye disorders, and the word 'worms' does not appear in the index. No account of the normal child and how to assess deviation from normal development is included.

With these reservations, the book is carefully planned and well written. The word 'Practical' in the title is justified by the attention to detail in describing methods of diagnosis and treatment, including dosage of drugs. This is usually given on a bodyweight basis, though occasionally the dose recommended aims to ignore the age and size of the child, e.g. morphine gr. 1/6 (10 mg.) as part of the treatment of left ventricular failure in acute nephritis.

The metabolic and endocrine disorders are described with a clarity that is unusual in general textbooks of paediatrics. Enough biochemistry is included to explain the errors involved without drowning the reader in a sea of complex formulae. The advice on infant feeding is brief and reflects the author's individual views on the subject, which are easy to follow. The chapter on emotional disorders is the least valuable and perhaps reflects an outdated approach in dealing mainly with such things as thumb-sucking, nail-biting, and masturbation, which most paediatricians regard as relatively unimportant matters compared with the rest.

The illustrations are all well chosen and clear.

There is little doubt that Professor Hutchison has produced a book that will establish itself firmly amongst the several other British paediatric textbooks, but one cannot help regretting that he did not undertake the much needed full work of reference.


As the present fashion, this book is based on a symposium on modern trends and practice of chemotherapy in childhood. Organized by the editors, who are senior members of the medical staffs in the paediatric departments of the Universities of Tübingen and Münster, it was held at Reutlingen in South West Germany. In addition to contributions by 22 participants the book also includes relevant observations made during discussion. Skillful editing has by these means stressed controversial aspects and allowed differences of opinion to become evident where dogmatic statements might have incurred lively criticism.

No doubt dictated partly by the individual experience of the contributors and their special fields of interest, the topics in this treatise range somewhat haphazardly over more general subjects in the nature of the 'basis of antibiotic treatment'—antibiotics, steroids, γ-globulins; synergism and antagonism in infectious diseases; and 'the effect of chemotherapy on micro-organisms' to the more detailed exposition of the treatment of infections caused by specific organisms such as streptococcal diseases, tuberculosis, pertussis, listeriosis, toxoplasmosis, leptospirosis, and mycoses. Some contributors approached the main theme from a different angle by discussing the infections of particular organ systems. Thus the therapy of respiratory disorders, throat, nose, and ear infections, and diseases of the urinary and alimentary tracts are dealt with according to the organ system involved. Other authors preferred to expound their views on selected disease entities of varying aetiology such as purulent meningitis, osteomyelitis, septicaemia, and bacterial endocarditis. We were astonished to find that in the management of meningococcal meningitis Friedericik recommends penicillin as the only drug to be given in maximal doses, i.e. 1 mega unit per kg. body weight per day to infants and 500,000 units/kg. body weight per day to older children and disregards completely the sulphonamides, a view that is not generally shared in this country. However, his results seemed to be very