BOOK REVIEWS

This is certainly not true of the very professional and useful commentaries and contributions by the editor. Perhaps it is not too much to hope that he might be the author or at least the editor, with a few selected contributors, of a future book on deafness, and that that one will have the virtues of brevity and simplicity that this one possesses, but without the dead wood.

In the meantime, in spite of this criticism, most of us will find much of value in it and much to learn from the proceedings of this Oxford conference, with its variety of eminent participants. By the way, how quiet the teachers of the deaf seem to have been.


Once again the Spastics Society puts us in their debt by publishing this book, the 13th in the notable series of Clinics in Developmental Medicine (but it is a pity that the apt term Little Club Clinics has been dropped). This is a report of an international study group at Durham in the Autumn of 1963, which brought together audiologists, neurologists, phoneticians, psychologists, paediatricians, psychiatrists, surgeons, linguists, speech therapists, and remedial teachers.

Papers are grouped under these titles: Normal Development and Background to Communication; Diagnosis; General Principles of Treatment; The Child with Mental Defect; The Non-communicating Child; Cerebral Palsy; Stammering. The subject matter is necessarily one where little solid fact of an anatomical or numerical kind is applicable, and perhaps because of this the papers make less immediate impact on the reader than they evidently did when delivered in their context at the opening of a discussion. One infers that the main achievement of the conference was to bring into sharper focus those aspects of the subject requiring particular study, and to underline the necessity for a team approach (exemplified by this study group) to the usually complex problems of the speechless child.

Like the others in this series, the format is notably agreeable.


This book is an historical account of the development of the occupational training unit at Westerlea with a description of its present make-up. Of the 120 pages, the first 57 are text and the remaining pages are photographs of varying interest.

The text makes interesting and informative reading and one must realize that much of the work was pioneer work involving trial and error, and this account tells how ideas arose and were developed. Some 17 pages are thus devoted to the history of the development of the unit.

Occupational therapy has been divided into 3 main sections: (1) activities of daily living; (2) remedial games; and (3) remedial craftwork. It is gratifying to see that the first of these developed into the most important aspect of the work, i.e. feeding, dressing, toileting, etc.

While not everyone will agree with the particular philosophy or physiological ideas behind some of the work, it can still be said that many beneficial activities were devised even if for a reason or by reasoning not acceptable to all.

An account is given of an out-patient unit operating on the same lines and there is a further account of the development of a sheltered workshop in the form of a laundry, which enable a number of spastics to be self supporting and at the same time provide a useful service to the community. The work has been very much along the lines of developing skills in connexion with daily living, and it is on much firmer ground in this respect than when directed to remedial activities. No attempt has been made to analyse individual cases or groups of cases nor to give figures or results statistically. For those concerned with setting up such a unit this book will provide much useful information, and indeed it is a pity that greater detail of methods and apparatus is not always given, though the main interest of the photographs is when they provide this information.


This is the first volume to appear and is second in a series of five volumes in German on Human Genetics, and deals with the skeleton. The Editor of the series is Professor Becker of Göttingen, well known for his contribution to the clinical and genetic classification of muscular dystrophy.

Paediatricians and orthopaedic surgeons will find the volume a most valuable source of references, especially references from continental literature. Certain of the individual chapters are well written, for example, that by Lenz on anomalies of growth and body build, in which is discussed most of the syndromes associated with dwarfism; that of Schulze on the anomalies of the teeth and jaws; and that of Degenhardt on the anomalies of the skull and back-bone. Other sections, such as that on generalized diseases of the skeleton and the limb bones, are complete, but do not attempt to integrate what is known of the genetics, probably because the authors are experienced clinicians rather than geneticists.

All those interested in genetics will look forward to the appearance of the other four volumes.

Tuberculosis in Twins. By BARBARA SIMONDS. (Pp. 81; 31 tables + appendixes. 10s. 6d.) London: Pitman. 1964.

From 1950 to 1957 Dr. Barbara Simonds conducted an inquiry on behalf of the Prophit Committee of the Royal College of Physicians into 'the genetic variation of