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 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 dwarfishism; 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
resistance to tuberculosis by a study of twins on the lines of research carried out in New York by Dr. F. J. Kallman and Dr. D. Reisner. Those workers, after a study in their own city, had concluded that the chance of developing tuberculosis increases in strict proportion to the degree of blood relationships to a tuberculous index case. The inquiry was, therefore, into the hereditary component of resistance to tuberculosis.

The report is short but is presented with great clarity and economy of language and space in six chapters in 45 pages; the remaining 35 pages contain necessary statistical appendixes.

The first and second chapters survey previous similar investigations and describe the methodology of this study and the diagnosis of zygosity: the method of sampling the twins was seen to be crucial and was therefore carefully planned. Eventually a group of 150 dizygotic and 55 monozygotic pairs was obtained. In the third chapter the diagnosis and outcome of tuberculosis and the contact history are considered. The fourth and fifth chapters contain the results in two parts; in the first part the monoand dizygotic twin samples are shown to be comparable with regard to sex and age and the nature and fate of the tuberculous disease. The only difference revealed was a relative increase in size of the 20-30 age-group of monozygotic female co-twins.

When both twins of a pair developed the disease the twins were defined as discordant, and when only one twin was affected the pair was said to be discordant. Study of concordance showed that a significantly greater proportion of the co-twins of monozygotic index cases ($\chi^2 = 7.986; p < 0.01$) and that the number of concordant pairs were significantly greater in female monozygotic twin pairs than in female dizygotic or discordant dizygotic twin pairs with a female index. This finding was not present in male discordant monozygotic twin pairs. Discordant twins were much more likely to have a tuberculous parent than discordant twins.

There were differences between the findings in this study and that of Kallman and Reisner. Simonds' study suggests that the higher concordance rate from tuberculosis in monozygotic twin pairs is due to increased exposure to index cases with a positive sputum and by a larger number of susceptible females in the monozygotic twin pairs. It is suggested that the differences in findings between the studies are due to a more complete method of collecting twins and a greater knowledge of the clinical differences between twin-pairs.

Emphasizing as it does that it is contact with an index case rather than blood relationship that is all important in the development of tuberculosis, this report should help to dispel any lingering thoughts about the hereditary nature of tuberculosis and should be further valuable evidence for the epidemiologists who believe that it is both practical and sensible to attempt to eradicate the disease. It is good to know that it has been published, and there is no doubt that it will often be used as a point of reference when questions of hereditary resistance are discussed.


In this third edition the authors have completely revised the text. Without lengthening the book many alterations and additions have been made to ensure that it meets the accepted present-day practice. There are chapters on all the aspects of child care from clothing to emotional disturbance. The wisely chosen words of advice aiming to inform as completely as possible without alarming are directed mainly towards parents. However, hospital and nursery nurses, health visitors, and others engaged in child welfare would find the material helpful and interesting. The delightful pen sketches and plates amusingly and often very pertinently illustrate the text.

Though the text is simply written to avoid confusion in the minds of parents, most of it would not conflict with the views of any paediatrician unless he held particularly dogmatic views.

There are chapters on the feeding and clothing of infants and older children, on the avoidance and management of feeding problems, on play, toys, books, sleep and sleep disturbances. There are also useful and comforting remarks about minor ailments and disturbing habits such as thumb sucking and masturbation. The section on 'first aid' gives clearly sensible 'do's and don'ts' on the emergency management of sudden illnesses like croup and convulsions, and accidents such as burns and fractures and inhaled foreign bodies.

Troublesome children are dealt with especially aiming to give an insight into the underlying causes of various behaviour disturbances. Advice is also given on the nursing of the sick child and on keeping him occupied when confined to bed.

There are also hints on holidays and journeys, advice on immunization schedules, and a recommended list of other books on child care.

This is a well-presented 'paper back' with a good index which is easily read and very informative.

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Paediatric Research Society

The 6th meeting of the Paediatric Research Society (Secretary, B. D. Bower) was held in the Department of Child Life and Health, University of Edinburgh, on October 23 and 24, 1964: 25 members and guests were present.

The following papers were read:—

'Some aetiological associations in studies of congenitally determined disabilities.' By Cecil Drillien.

'Adrenocortical function in newborn infants.' By D. Methven Cathro.

'The leucocyte pattern in the neonatal period.' By Elizabeth M. Innes.

'Histamine in human diseases.' By Ross Mitchell.

'Urinary cortisol excretion as a test of adrenal cortical function.' By William Hamilton.

'Paediatrics in India.' By J. W. Farquhar.

On October 23 a visit was made to the unit for dysmestic children at the Princess Margaret Rose Hospital (Dr. Werner Schutt and colleagues).