value to the general clinician who is interested in helping
difficult adolescents to grow up as persons.
The book is in 3 parts. Part 1, which is much the
longest, is probably more relevant than Parts 2 and 3 to
those wanting to learn more of adolescents, adolescence,
the interaction between adult and adolescent, and
psychotherapeutic processes.
Part 2, which deals with certain aspects of individual
psychotherapy, and Part 3, which discusses residential
treatment, are of less immediate concern to those who are
not psychiatrists or psychologists.
The book is not one into which the reader can profit-
ably merely dip: it merits careful reading by paediatric-
ians at any rate to the end of Part 1, and by junior
psychiatrists from the beginning to the end. These
young people between the 12th and 18th years of life who
are no longer children nor yet adults can be very rewarding
patients, and Dr. Holmes has performed a useful
service in giving us this book. It is a pity that it is rather
costly.

Endokardfibrosen. Klinik-Therapie-Pathologie. By
RUDOLF WENGER. (Pp. viii + 206; 42 figures + 14
In a monograph of 200 pages and including 700
references, Dr. Wenger endeavours to give us a synoptic
work on the whole range of endocardial fibroses. About
half of the book deals with primary endocardial fibro-
elastosis of infancy and childhood, the remainder with
fibroelastosis in adolescence and adult life, endomyocard-
ial fibrosis, parietal fibroplastic endocarditis, and endo-
cardial fibrosis in the carcinoid syndrome and in scleroderma.

This study is based on 800 published cases of childhood
fibroelastosis to which the author adds 34 cases of his own
or referred to him by his colleagues. His main aim is to
demonstrate that fibroelastosis is not limited to infancy
and early childhood but that there exist transitional types
of the disease encountered at puberty and in adults, and
that there are, links between primary congenital and
secondary acquired forms. A schematic presentation
shows the interrelation of these pathological manifesta-
tions. Though each aspect of primary fibroelastosis is
discussed extensively, in the end the confusion of detail
leaves the reader with a somewhat blurred picture, in the
same way as comprehensive bibliographical reviews which
contain contradictory opinions on a particular subject.
The appended 34 brief case histories of childhood
fibroelastosis are recorded without critical personal
evaluation. From the clinical point of view the presence
of organic heart murmurs is regarded as compatible with
the diagnosis, while a number of authors stipulate absence
of such bruits as a diagnostic criterion.
The rapid accumulation of medical knowledge has also
overtaken this book in spite of the author’s obvious effort
to be up to date. Thus the diagnostic significance of the
mumps antigen skin test, which seems to be a most useful
procedure, has missed its entry into its pages. Though a

considerable section of the monograph is concerned with
conditions unlikely to occur in childhood, its exhaustive
discussion of the problem of fibroelastosis makes it very
interesting reading, especially for the paediatric cardio-
ologist and all those that are engaged in research into the
various facets of endocardial fibroses.

As one might expect, the production of the book by the
Georg Thieme publishing company of Stuttgart is of a
high standard. Paper, print, and reproduction of the
black and white photographs are excellent.

Blutkrankheiten im Kindesalter. Postgraduate Courses in
Pediatrics. Edited by E. Rossi. Vol. 11-12: (Pp. 158;
ilustrated; 48s.) Basel and New York: S. Karger.
1964.
Among the 8 small volumes edited since 1961 by
Ettore Rossi as postgraduate courses in paediatrics, this is
one of the most instructive. It contains 9 articles, 7 in
German and 2 in French, reviewing not only the progress
so far achieved in the study of blood diseases in childhood
but also spotlighting the haematological problems still to
be solved. The difficulties facing the research worker
engaged in the study of leukaemias in the young are
presented in a masterly way. A stimulating discussion
deals with the various aspects of lymphocytosis and
lymphopenia. On one condition the author puts a great
deal of emphasis and regrets that only very few paediatric-
ians are aware of its existence, mainly ‘chronic constitu-
tional neutropenia with lymphocytosis’. It occurs
from early infancy up to the age of 3 years, predisposes to
infections of the upper respiratory tract, hyperthermia,
and recurrent bouts of pyrexia. The children prone to
the disorder are described as of ‘partially allergic, partially
degenerative and partially dyscrasial constitution’. The
reviewer felt that because of the rather nebulous nature of
the syndrome and/or its description, most paediatricians
might justifiably plead ignorance.

Somewhat disconcerting also are the author’s views on
the value of the Paul Bunnel test in infectious mononucle-
osis, to which he accords only a 10% diagnostic reliability.

The chapters on metabolic disorders of the red cells,
mechanisms of haemolysis, aplastic anaemia, structural
defects of human haemoglobin, as well as on the develop-
ment of the red cells and the relationship to the anae-
mas are well written and illuminating.

The references are well selected and up to date, except
for the chapter on thrombocytopenias where they have
been omitted.

The section on the function of the platelets is well
documented.

One further minor omission occurs in the discussion
of steroid therapy of thrombocytopenic purpura where the
initial dose is given as 3 mg./kg. bodyweight but no
mention is made of the type of steroid recommended.
In spite of the few criticisms, this is an excellent survey
of paediatric haematology and could profitably be read by
any paediatrician.