Book Reviews


Dr. Kaufmann's little book is an atlas of congenital abnormalities of the infantile pelvis, and of pelvic abnormalities due to chromosomal anomalies. It deals with the embryology of the pelvis, the radiological appearances of the normal pelvis at birth, and its subsequent normal development. This section is useful in the interpretation of radiographs, particularly for non-radiologists or radiologists not particularly familiar with this age-group. The material in the section on congenital abnormalities can be found in other atlases of skeletal abnormalities, such as Fairbank's great work, but it is here presented in a convenient form and is very comprehensive. The author has been enthusiastic and very successful in collecting his examples and has searched not only Europe, but also the United States for these. As an example he includes an illustration taken from the first known case of Pyle's disease, and travelled to Cincinnati in order to see it. The section on chromosomal anomalies contains a lengthy account of the changes in mongolism, but collects other chromosome changes, which are brought together perhaps for the first time in this form. With present progress in this subject a new edition may become necessary quite soon.

There is a very extensive bibliography at the end of the book which is well produced and reads easily. The illustrations are fairly good, but not quite up to the superb standard one has come to expect from Thieme Verlag. All in all, this is a useful reference book for libraries and paediatric X-ray departments.

La Lymphocytose Infectieuse Aigue (Une Nouvelle Lymphoreticulite signe bénigne). By GEORGES MARINESCO. (Pp. xii + 145; 30 figures + 17 tables. 30F.) Paris: Mason and Cie. 1965

Acute infectious lymphocytosis is a diagnosis rarely made in this country. Indeed a number of paediatricians and haematologists may not recall ever seeing a case.

This monograph gives a full account of the condition, tracing its history from the original description by Carl Smith in 1941. The chapters on clinical features and haematological diagnosis contain a number of well-documented case reports, illustrating the numerous forms this usually benign illness may take. Differential diagnosis is dealt with in great detail. Diagnosis, of course, rests on the presence of a leucocytosis consisting of morphologically normal 'mature' lymphocytes, often accompanied at some stage by an eosinophilia. As the author demonstrates, the abnormal blood count may last for months after the clinical illness and indeed is frequently a chance finding in an asymptomatic child.

The sections on aetiology and epidemiology are brief and to the point. The question is whether this haematological manifestation is an unusual individual response to a multiplicity of viral—or other—agents, or due to a single as yet unknown agent. The author appears to favour the latter view. Recently a number of cases of the pulmonary form of the condition have been associated with an adenovirus. The problem is particularly apposite at a time when the possibilities of diagnostic virology are increasing and the role of viruses in leukaemias and lymphomas is under close scrutiny.

This informative monograph should stimulate interest in a rare condition of childhood, which may occur more frequently than we suppose.


With the publication, last year, of Avery's monograph on Disorders of the Lung in the Newborn Infant, the editor and publishers of the new series of Major Problems in Clinical Paediatrics set themselves a high standard. The second volume on Rheumatic Fever in no way falls short of this standard. Its authors have produced an exhaustive and up-to-date review and, as the editor comments, have assembled all the worth-while information on the subject. There are, in fact, some 20 pages