age-groups. This is a useful addition for those who are concerned with feeding the healthy child. It also provides a basis for the construction of all therapeutic diets.

The usual therapeutic diets are adequately covered. A brief summary of the principles on which the diet is based precedes the description and arrangement of each special diet.

The diabetic diet, using 10 g. portions of carbohydrate foods and unlimited protein and fat foods, is clearly laid out. The alternative food list and the list of recipes, which can also be used for the family, will help to give variety to the diet. One recipe ‘Queen of Puddings’ states that two-thirds of the pudding contains 20 g. of carbohydrate, this is a mistake, one-third of the recipe will provide 20 g. carbohydrate.

The gluten-free diet which is used in the treatment of coeliac disease is fully explained. The list of manufactured products which are gluten free will be a help to the person who is responsible for making this diet more interesting to the child; unfortunately, there is an error in the list of chocolates and sweets that are forbidden.

The dietary treatment of the inborn errors of metabolism, e.g. galactosaemia and phenylketonuria, is well described. The lists of foods and proprietary products that can be used in these conditions will prove most helpful.

The author writes that the object of the book is to give practical assistance to paediatricians, general practitioners, health visitors, dietitians, and nurses. She has undoubtedly achieved what she set out to do.


This monograph is the latest in a series of Paediatric Surgical Monographs edited by Mark M. Ravitch. The author describes the results of a personal review of 306 patients with spina bifida cystica, seen and treated at the Royal Children’s Hospital, Melbourne, Australia. The patients were from the 20-year period, 1943-1963, during which the surgical management has changed due to the development of the Holter valve in 1959 for the treatment of the associated hydrocephalus. There are chapters dealing with the aetiology, pathology, embryology, and pathogenesis, clinical features, and natural history, early and late management, and the results of spina bifida cystica.

Two chapters deserve special mention. That on pathology based on operative and necropsy findings and detailed dissections of the spinal cord has resulted in a suitable classification of the many types of defect found in clinical practice; in addition the author demonstrates the high incidence of myelodysplasia and hydromyelia found in association with myelomeningocele, which adversely affects the prognosis.

The chapter on the management of the urinary tract is lengthy, amounting to 30% of the monograph; however, this section is interesting to read, as the author correlates the results of cystometry with the other routine investigations. The various forms of permanent urinary diversion are discussed, but no mention is made of colo-cutaneous ureterostomy.

As many different specialities are involved in the care of these infants and children with spinal myelomeningocele, it is difficult for a single author to write well on all aspects, but the author does stress the need for a co-ordinated plan resulting in the total rehabilitation of the whole child.

There is an exhaustive bibliography and the illustrations are clear, except the colour ones on page 23, which are of poor quality and serve no useful purpose.

This monograph can be recommended to paediatricians and surgeons who have a special interest in the care of these unfortunate infants and children.


This book gives us exactly what the title promises, but it is a generous contribution and the span of ‘development’ and of ‘neuro-psychiatry’ is very wide indeed. Few physicians graduate from academic neurology into psycho-analysis, but Schilder did so as well as Freud. We must be grateful to his widow for her meticulous work in gathering the mass of clinical material together. Here and there the interest is heightened by her ability to add comments to case histories, so that we know both the developmental pattern and the ultimate outcome.

Schilder is concerned with every aspect of development. His views on perception, on language and speech, on motor development, and on their close linkage with emotional maturation and such deviations as aggressiveness, hyperkinesis, and obsessionism, all stimulate fascinating speculations in the realm of body-mind linkage.

How does a damaged brain, or rather the child who has one, think, feel, manage his body, develop his body-image? Sometimes the author is provocatively dogmatic, but while accepting the major principles of Freudian ideology, and acknowledging a debt to Melanie Klein’s work, he remains a highly original and stimulating thinker. At no point may the clinician evade his responsibility towards the dual basis of the clinical condition for which his advice is sought. An unsettling book and all the better for it.


This book, No. 18 of the Clinics in Developmental Medicine, presents a method for the use of the imitation of gestures in the training of children with cerebral palsy. The method is based on the principle that imitation provides the means for learning and not the content. It consists of the use of three types of imitation: direct, indirect, and other. Direct imitation is the most obvious and consists of the child imitating the therapist’s movements. Indirect imitation is more subtle and consists of the child observing the therapist’s movements and then imitating them. Other imitation is the most complex and consists of the child imitating the therapist’s movements without the therapist’s knowledge.

This method has been used successfully with children with cerebral palsy in France and has been found to be effective in improving their motor skills and in increasing their self-confidence. The book contains a detailed description of the method and provides many examples of how it can be used in practice. It is a valuable contribution to the field of developmental medicine and is highly recommended for professionals working with children with cerebral palsy.
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Medicine, consists of a description of tests designed to measure the acquisition of body schema and of right/left orientation by children between 3 and 8 years of age.

In the first group of tests the child is asked to imitate 20 simple gestures of hand and arm, 16 complex gestures of hands and fingers, and the opposite of 10 of the latter. In the second group the child has to name and point to different parts of his own and the examiner's body. The authors combined all this with a 'Draw a Man' test at the beginning and end of the testing session and with a mannequin assembly puzzle. They claim that the complete examination does not take longer than 20 minutes even with the slowest children. The gestures are well illustrated, and detailed scoring criteria render the interpretation of results unequivocal. The tests have been standardized on a total of 489 right-handed children of average intelligence, and norms are presented for the ages of 3 to 6 years for the body image, and 3 to 8 years for the right/left orientation tests at yearly intervals. Studies done on 100 children born prematurely and 78 children with neurological disturbances showed that these two groups were slower in acquiring body image than normals.

In spite of the difficulty in finding some information necessary for interpreting the validity of the findings, and the small number of some of the age-groups on which tests are standardized, for example 28 children at age 8, and 29 at age 7, this book is useful in suggesting further lines of research. Once the importance of factors such as 'crossed laterality', muscular coordination, intelligence level, etc. has been assessed, the tests will probably help to elucidate some of the problems encountered in children with neurological and psychological illnesses. Professor J. de Ajuria-guerra in his preface provides a lucid summary of previous work in this field and an enumeration of points worthy of note in the study.


It is probably only national pride that makes this reviewer slightly cross, when reading American journals and books, to find no reference to British work on the subject matter, even where that work is well known and often original. So it is pleasant to greet an exception, and an honourable one at that.

A Child Goes to the Hospital by Harold Geist describes the reactions of children going to the hospital, their reactions to various procedures, including having an anaesthetic and an operation, and their behaviour on returning home. For much of the information and research on this subject, the author quotes work done in Britain. The Tavistock Clinic work of Dr. Robertson is given in some detail, and Illingworth and Holt's controlled studies in Sheffield and Vaughan's in London, on the effects of increased visiting times and adequate preparation of the children, are also described. The recommendations of the Platt Report on the Care of Children in Hospital are mentioned, and even the Ministry of Health is included.

Based on these studies and recommendations, and other work from American hospitals, the author gives useful advice to parents and nurses, anaesthetists, surgeons, and physicians about the handling of various situations when children go to hospital.

The author devotes a good deal of space to an explanation (in psychodynamic terms) of the children's reactions which helps to make sense of some of the apparently irrational behaviour of children in hospital. 'Case assignment' nursing is suggested as ideal, with its obvious advantages in each nurse having individual children in her care, and the children being able to identify 'their nurse'.

Rather scrappy sections on chronic illness, the management of malignant disease, and death in children, and on the special reactions of children to certain specific diseases are added rather as an afterthought and do not give very much useful information on these quite important subjects. On the whole, however, this is a useful book, especially for nurses and paediatricians, as well as for the anaesthetists and surgeons who deal with children.


This is the first monograph devoted to the respiratory distress syndrome of the newborn (hyaline membrane disease), but proves to be little more than a rehash of the large literature on the subject of the past two decades. Unfortunately the author deals with it quite uncritically, making no attempt to excise the massive amount of dead wood which has so long encumbered the subject. The part played by changes in the pulmonary circulation and by surface tension effects receives only passing mention. Nor does the author add much from his own experience. There is one good feature, a bibliography listing the literature up to the beginning of 1965. Otherwise, this monograph must be judged less useful than several recent reviews of the same subject, which, though shorter, are more selective.


Twelve papers from seven countries were presented at the First Ciba Foundation Symposium to deal with dental research. The subject, caries-resistant teeth, was suggested by Professor Bertram Cohen and the meeting was chaired by Professor Sognnaes of California.

In the first paper, Davies deals with the significance of epidemiological studies and points out that longitudinal