stimulates by injection as a method of resuscitation could be more clearly stated (p. 486). These are minor criticisms, and reflect the fact that the authors' views come to light throughout the book, which always makes for more interesting reading. They are to be congratulated on keeping up the high standard of previous editions.


Textbooks of therapy are liable to certain 'built-in' weaknesses. It seems to be implied that almost everything needs treating; treatment is often equated with drugs; and the preparations recommended tend to be out-dated by the constant spate of new ones. How does the second edition of Shirkey, with 13 new chapters, measure up in these respects?

First, it is admirable in its warnings against indiscriminate treatment (e.g. 'Often the decision not to treat is the best therapy'). Second, while the drug treatment naturally forms the bulk of the text, a reasonable perspective is maintained by sensible advice on general management, physical therapy, emotional factors, recreational play therapy, and the like. Third, the drugs named are almost always up-to-date and, despite the multiple authorship, the recommendations for their use are usually consistent (though vitamin K, mentioned on pages 52, 180, 665, and 963, is an exception).

The sections on Fundamentals of Drug Therapy, General Therapy and Infectious Diseases, are comprehensive and very helpful. The paediatrician will also get clear and useful advice from the separate sections on the various bodily systems. In comparison, the chapters on Treatment of Symptoms and on Paediatric Psychiatry seem superficial and patchy. If the inclusion of chapters on Radiation Therapy (in a section on Tumours) and Paediatric Surgery seems debatable, they may be justified on the grounds that the paediatrician should be informed on what specialist treatment has to offer for his patients. The headings in the table of drug dosages are not, and cannot be, completely consistent; an alphabetical arrangement might be handier for quick reference.

On this side of the Atlantic there will be some difficulties with the names of proprietary drugs; and, on both sides, differences of opinion on the significance (and hence treatment) of some conditions and on a few methods of treatment. Is constipation (p. 985) really the 'most common cause of abdominal pain in children'? One may doubt whether dilatation of the anus is the only treatment for acute fissure-in-ano (p. 957), or whether it is even the best treatment. Nearly all the advice given on therapy is, however, well balanced and completely acceptable.

The book is well and clearly set out and beautifully produced. For a short anticipated life (1966-1967) it is, however, expensive. The price must have been greatly increased by the many illustrations. Most are clinical and are good in themselves (though the crude 'technique recommended for palpation of a pyloric tumour' in Fig. 255 will raise many eyebrows), but very many are out of place here. They would be appropriate in a general textbook of paediatrics, and if they were omitted from 'Pediatric Therapy' it would be much less expensive and no less authoritative.


This monograph deals with the development as well as with the pathology of the suprarenal cortex. The embryogenesis of the suprarenal glands, and the growth and involution of the foetal cortex are described in some detail. Congenital malformation, accessory suprarenal cortical tissue, and congenital hypoplasia are fully discussed in a separate section. The largest section of the book is devoted to a variety of pathological changes that may affect the suprarenal cortex in the newborn infant and in the older child. These include suprarenal cortical insufficiency, infectious diseases resulting from viral, bacterial, or protozoal invasion, lipid hyperplasia, Cushing's syndrome, and tumours of the suprarenal cortex. A short account of aldosteronism is also given.

As is customary with Springer-Verlag the book is beautifully produced and the 120 photomicrographs are of the highest order. Perhaps the most outstanding feature is the bibliography which covers almost 1,000 references. These references are international in character and are introduced at the end of the appropriate subsection. In addition an index of authors is also supplied.

Since so many subjects are dealt with in a relatively small space, there are few purely clinical data. The pathogenesis of the various disorders and their histological appearances are well documented. This volume will appeal to many pathologists and to all those who wish a quick introduction to the literature concerning the suprarenal cortex in children.


This slender volume offers further contributions to the knowledge of the physiology of infancy and childhood in a continuation of the work Professor Linneweh began in 1959 with the publication of 'die physiologische Entwicklung des Kindes, Vorlesungen über funktionelle Pädiologie'.

The latter was a vigorous attempt to stress the necessity for a new discipline in research, the planned and coherent study of the factors influencing growth and development during foetal and postnatal life until maturity. The term paediology was created to underline this branch of medical science as a basis for the progress in paediatrics.