stimulants 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 handler 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. 259 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 paedology was created to underline this branch of medical science as a basis for the progress in paediatrics.
Twelve chapters deal with a variety of scientific disciplines into which the authors themselves have extended their investigations. The introductory article on postnatal enzymatic adaptation discusses the factors that influence the start of enzyme activity at various stages before or after birth and thus provides the framework for the other contributions. It is rightly pointed out that biologically active proteins are the substrate of adaptation, and that disturbances of their synthesis may lead to grave disturbances of an infant's health. Logically then follow discussions on protein synthesis in the pre- and postnatal period, on maturation of the immunoglobulins, on antigen tolerance, and sensitization in the perinatal phase. Special attention is also paid to the development of the blood coagulation system, the mechanism of fat absorption, temperature regulation in the newborn, oxygen and CO₂ exchange in the human placenta, and to the factors influencing muscle tone during infancy.

This is an extremely valuable book for paediatricians interested in a better understanding of the developing human body and who want to base their activities on a sound knowledge of its physiology. It might be an eye-opener to those who so far have failed to grasp the particular biological problems of growth.

The print is pleasing, and the diagrams are helpful and clearly drawn. The text as well as the references, including those in French and English, are singularly free of printing errors.

The book is a credit to editor and publisher alike.

**Disorders of Carbohydrate Metabolism in Infancy.**


In this book, the third of a series, *Major Problems in Pediatrics,* the authors have, in their own words 'attempted to present our own current concepts of the normal and abnormal physiology of carbohydrate metabolism in the fetus, the pregnant mother, the neonate and the infant'. Part I surveys metabolism of carbohydrate, the metabolic adjustments in pregnancy and in the neonate both full-term and low birthweight; Part II, present knowledge and thinking on the infant of the diabetic mother and on transient neonatal hypoglycaemia and transient diabetes mellitus in early infants; Part III, disorders of glycoprotein metabolism, and hereditary galactose and fructose intolerance (what in this country would be called galactosaemia and fructosaemia).

This is a gigantic task and, one might think, an almost impossible one to achieve within the compass of 280 pages, and indeed the reviewer rapidly suffered reader's indigestion. This is particularly so in the biochemical sections, where the compression is such that it is almost useless to anyone except those who already have a full understanding of the subject. Nevertheless, the book gives a very comprehensive review of the biochemistry, genetics, and clinical aspects of a whole range of conditions mentioned. There are many diagrams, some of which are helpful, and for good measure there are two appendices, the first on diets for disorders of carbohydrate metabolism and the second on carbohydrate content of a very large range of foods.

Perhaps the book's most useful function is for quick reference and for the references it contains to the literature, which are considerable and up-to-date. As usual with American books, production, printing, and paper are of high quality.


This slim volume of 90 pages is No. 17 in a series of postgraduate courses in paediatrics, published over the past 4 years by the University Clinic in Berne, Switzerland. Three of the contributions come from the paediatric surgical clinic in Berne. Bettes, who edits this volume, reviews the present status of surgery for cleft lip and palate with a welcome clarity of presentation.

Kuffer and Duc analyse the surgical causes of acute respiratory difficulty, especially the tension lesions in the chest. Sharli's chapter on the esophagus and cardia includes a review of their small but good series of results in oesophageal atresia, and presents a large series of fundal plications for hiatus hernia.

Nicole of Basel reports on craniostenosis (having operated on more than half of the 108 cases seen in the past 10 years): this is a useful study of the correlation between clinical, radiological, operative, and histological criteria of craniostenosis.

Grob of Zürich presents the current practice of early active surgical treatment of myelomeningocele and hydrocephalus, and supports this view from his own modest series.

Duhamel, making the only contribution in French to this collection of surgical papers in German, clarifies the syndrome of functional obstruction of the colon without aganglionosis in infancy, and also reports on his experience of sphincterectomy for anorectal achalasia, with good results but varied histological findings.

As a group of essays on a few aspects of current paediatric surgical practice, the book is a useful addition to the series.


This is the 15th monograph in the series 'Experimentelle Medizin, Pathologie und Klinik' and adds another well-produced, well-written review of a subject that