be asked to form such a service at the Hôpital des Enfants Malades in Paris 18 years ago. This book relates in detail his experience, his methods of diagnosis and treatment, and his results. The small number of cases dealt with is a reminder to the reader how difficult it is to accumulate experience in this branch of surgery.

The book, which is printed on good paper allowing adequate reproduction of x-ray films, begins with a brief description of the physiology of the infant and child. This could have been amplified with advantage, since our understanding of the special features of childhood anatomy and physiology has been the main factor in reducing mortality and morbidity.

There follow chapters on physical examination and special radiological investigations. The latter are very briefly outlined and appear to be outdated when compared with modern practice in most other countries.

There are excellent sections on pre-operative care, anaesthesia, and on psychometry in neurosurgical patients.

The main part of the book is concerned with intracranial tumours, congenital malformations, and trauma. The author's experience is of great interest to other neurosurgeons who can readily compare their own methods and results with his. However, the book is not to be recommended as an introduction of the subject to the uninitiated. Nowhere is it suggested that alternative methods may be used. Many examples of practice which would not be accepted in most other centres could be given. Lipiodol is still used by Dr. Klein; the use of metal plates for bone defects in young children is to be deplored; the modern technique of pneumoencephalography in the presence of raised intracranial pressure is not mentioned; failure to use radio-opaque substance such as microcrystalline barium sulphate in the management of cerebral abscess is noteworthy. There is no guide for further reading, since the book contains not a single reference. Several important conditions (particularly congenital anomalies of the spinal column and cord) are not mentioned. There is no index.

The reviewer was astonished and dismayed to find that it is still possible in Western Europe to write a book displaying such isolation from advances which have been made in many countries in this branch of medicine.


A number of monographs and books on the adrenal cortex have appeared during recent years, and most of these include chapters on the clinical use of corticosteroids. This book is almost entirely devoted to the clinical use of adrenal corticosteroids and their synthetic derivatives. It was originally published in Budapest in 1962 and has been translated into German. Although the authors have included in this edition some recent work, in general the literature has been reviewed up to 1962. It is an encyclopaedic book, with more than 2500 references, including German, French, and Russian literature. The profession of the authors is not mentioned, but they are probably not working in paediatric medicine.

The first chapter shortly deals with the physiology, chemistry, and pharmacology of the corticosteroids. The second chapter is on the clinical use of corticosteroids in internal diseases (endocrine, collagen, rheumatoid, cardiac, allergic, haematological, renal, and gastrointestinal diseases) and tumours. The third chapter on the use of corticosteroids in infectious diseases is lengthy and this subject is apparently the main interest of the authors. The last chapter is entirely on the side-effects of the corticosteroids, and a very short chapter deals with special side-effects in the paediatric age-group.

This book is essentially a reference book and as such it is useful for libraries and endocrine departments. In several sections the authors illustrate a review of the literature with their own clinical observations, but particularly for the paediatric age-group their experience seems to be limited. For the general paediatrician who will have difficulty in finding practical information and guidance on such important subjects as treatment of acute rheumatic fever, nephrotic syndrome, or Waterhouse-Friderichsen syndrome, there are more compact and up-to-date reviews of these subjects available.


This long-awaited seventh edition, edited by A. P. Norman, renamed, and published in two volumes, has been largely rewritten by some of the former and many new contributors.

Volume I, 'General Considerations and Nursing', is a comprehensive assessment of the needs of the sick child, and the effective meeting of these needs by the enlightened understanding and training of those to whose care he is entrusted. The variety of subjects covered, and the new material included, are indications of the advances made in paediatrics since the last edition. The main subjects covered include child health, the management and care of the sick child, the role of the parents, and the ancillary services. The new chapters on genetics and normal development will increase the understanding of the handicapped and sick child. Questions with regard to 'free visiting' and the admission of the mother are posed and answered frankly and imaginatively. The role of the father is not forgotten. The new material on fluid and electrolyte balance is simple and practical as is that on resuscitation. The nursing techniques are well described and in some instances illustrated. It is a pity that indications of dosage are not included in the chapter on pharmacology.

Volume II, 'The Diseases of Children', contains a good deal of information that is readable and interesting. Medical and surgical treatment of conditions is given under the appropriate systems. There is a good deal of