
It is a remarkable achievement to produce a book which is both intelligible to the paediatrician and of value to the ophthalmologist. This has been accomplished by obtaining contributions from ophthalmologists who are particularly interested in the diseases of childhood, and by editing the material to be of specific interest to the paediatricians. This, with the addition of a few key modern references, has resulted in a concise, beautifully illustrated account which can be used for rapid reference by either department.

The book consists of a short anatomo-physiological description of the eye and the clinical methods of its examination. Particular attention has been paid to describing the tests that any clinician can and should be able to undertake. This is followed by an extremely well-written chapter on strabismus, which forms the major part of paediatric ophthalmology.

Much of diagnosis depends on being able to recognize what one sees, and a textbook that aids in this will always be well used. The illustrations of the external ocular diseases could hardly be improved upon, and their excellence has enabled the account of local eye disease to be reduced to a minimum.

The next part of the book recognizes that the paediatrician is a physician, and devotes the space to the ocular manifestations of systemic diseases, including an outstanding chapter on genetic aspects and hereditary disease. The inherited conditions that manifest ocular pathology are summarized in a very good table which concludes the final chapter.

The only chapters which I found added little were those on the reading and social aspects of ophthalmic problems, but this in no way detracted from the value of this book, both to ophthalmologists and children's physicians.


The authors, Dr. Hoyt, a neuro-ophtalmologist, and Miss Beeston, a photographer, have set out to describe and illustrate the fundus oculi as it appears in various neurological disorders. Between them they have produced a book that is well written and beautifully illustrated with both black and white and stereoscopic colour pictures, the latter being viewed through a collapsible viewer that is tucked into the back cover of the book together with 14 reels of colour slides. The first chapter deals very fully with papilloedema, both in its development and regression; the difficulties in diagnosis are stressed, and the very important point is made that it is sometimes impossible to be sure about disc swelling at one examination, so that it may be necessary to observe the case for a period of time to see if it changes. The second chapter is devoted to anomalies of the disc that may be confused with papilloedema, while the third chapter is concerned with disc swelling from local and systemic disease. A study of these three chapters would be of great value to all doctors who have to decide about the presence of papilloedema and who are responsible for the instigation of neurosurgical investigations.

In the fourth chapter the authors discuss the pale optic disc, first in relation to the congenital variations that may mimic pathological pallor and then in relation to the pallor that occurs from retinal disease, papilloedema, and lesions behind the eyeball. They stress the apparent pallor of the discs in infancy and warn against equating pallor with poor vision. The last chapter reviews combined disorders of the retina and brain as revealed in the fundus; including both congenital rarities and the more common vascular diseases.

The illustrations generally are of a very high standard and the stereoscopic slides are striking; even though it is impossible to view the fundus stereoscopically with present-day ophthalmoscopes, these three-dimensional pictures will help the interpretation of the two-dimensional views obtained with the conventional ophthalmoscope.

The book is somewhat difficult to read, because the main text and illustrations are printed on the left hand pages, while on the right hand ones are printed the guide pictures and illustrations for the stereoscopic slides; this causes a certain amount of overlapping and repetition of material. The price is high for a book of limited scope but medical school libraries might well purchase it for use in teaching small groups of students.


Volume XIV of Advances contains articles on ulcerative colitis, poisonings in childhood, the haemoglobinopathies, the current status of live attenuated vaccines, the physiological and biochemical determinants of development, and the hereditary renal glomerular diseases in infancy and childhood. The outstanding contribution and the best buy for the practising paediatrician and Public Health Officer is without any doubt Karzon and Henderson’s review of virus vaccines. This comprehensive review deals with smallpox, rabbies, poliomyelitis, measles, and yellow fever, with a note on the prospects of developing a vaccine against rubella in the reasonably near future. From these 120 pages the reader will get a complete understanding of the respective merits of dead and live attenuated vaccines, their use in combination and with γ-globulin, and their mode of employment for child populations under varying world conditions. For the more sophisticated, the articles by Kretchmer and Greenberg on biological determinants, and by Professor Jonxis on the haemoglobinopathies are masterly reviews of difficult subjects, though a knowledge of the concepts of modern molecular biochemistry is a prerequisite to their full understanding. They will be hard going for those who wish only to remain ‘with it’ at the growing
point of knowledge regarding the fundamentals of the life process.

The remaining three reviews are, by comparison, light weight. Broberger and Lagercrantz dutifully review a considerable literature on ulcerative colitis, but their outlook is too objective, they review without criticism, and the reader is often left without guidance on important aspects of this horrible disease over which there are differences of opinion. The Assistant Commissioner of the New York Department of Health contributes a worthy review of poisoning in childhood, but too much otherwise useful information is lost in non-contributory background sentences. For instance, it is fairly obvious 'that infants up to the age of one year (the creepers) are apt to swallow substances which they find on the floor or at low level', and it does not surprise your reviewer, at least, that 'it is noteworthy that in 20% of poisoning involving young children . . . the adults in the household were unaware that the agent was hazardous'. However, here and there the reader is helped along by titbits such as an item that INH caused an outbreak of precocious puberty in 1- to 5-year-olds.

The last review, however, on hereditary renal disease, by McCrory, Shibuya, and Worthen, illuminates an interesting corner of paediatrics in which all the emphasis is usually placed on environmental rather than on genetic causative factors.

**Kinderzahnheilkunde und ihre Grenzgebiete.**

Edited by WALTER KÜNZEL and JAROSLAV TOMAN. (Pp. 544; 402 figures + 16 tables. 75.- MDN) Berlin: VEB Verlag Volk und Gesundheit. 1965.

This is a large volume written by five contributors and edited by two of them. It deals with the entire field of children's dentistry, and the authors state in the foreword that this book was produced because in the past decades children's dentistry has become a specialty, and it is necessary to produce specialists in this field and to have this specialty accepted in the theoretical and practical curriculum of the dental course.

There are chapters dealing with the psychological approach to children's dentistry, radiology, the development of the teeth and jaws, complications during eruption, premedication and anaesthesia, the conservation of teeth, the social aspect of caries, the prevention of caries, the organization of the dental services for the young, extractions, replantation of teeth, the pathology and treatment of inflammations and tumours of the mouth, and the oral manifestations of general diseases. There are further small chapters on trauma of teeth and jaws, the tongue, allergies, prosthetics, and the book ends with a section on orthodontics.

This is indeed a vast undertaking and one wonders how all these subjects could have been adequately described in just over 500 pages. There are many excellent clinical photographs, some in colour, and the line drawings are well chosen and good illustrations of points that are often meaningless when shown in photographs. There is an excellent bibliography and the index is adequate. However, one comes back to the question of adequate coverage and whether or not the authors tried to do too much. There are some omissions which immediately defeat the purpose of the book—namely, that it should present a comprehensive textbook of all that is concerned with children's dentistry. Conservation techniques are hardly mentioned and treatment in general is sparsely mentioned in most of the chapters dealing with diseases of the mouth. In the section on orthodontics only simple treatment measures are mentioned. Fixed appliances are not mentioned at all, and few orthodontists in this country would agree with the statement that after the age of 14 orthodontic treatment will have little success, though parents who wish to have children over that age treated should not be refused because of the 'psychotherapeutic effect of such a refusal'. The typical negative continental outlook on the subject of general anaesthetics is understandable, because this subject is not part of the dentist's curriculum in most European countries.

Few textbooks describe as well as this book the psychological aspect of treatment of the child, but I was very disturbed to find the same approach to extraction of teeth without any kind of anaesthetic as that which could be found in German textbooks of the 1930s. The statement that 'the extraction of teeth without anaesthetics (local or general) is tolerated well by most children' in my opinion has no place in a textbook of the 1960s, especially when it is under the heading 'psychological tips on children's dentistry'.

The chapter on the history of the children's dental services is quite unique. First it deals in great detail with the development of the services in Germany as they were before 1945, and then concentrates on the services in the German Democratic Republic.

On the whole it must be said that this is a good book incorporating an enormous amount of information, but the specialist in children's dentistry requires more information and especially more detailed information regarding treatment. In other words it is not 'The' textbook on children's dentistry it was intended to be, but is still an excellent reference book for all those who can master the rather long-winded German style.


Dr. Woolf's excellent monograph summarizes the present knowledge of the various genetically determined disorders of renal tubular function, both primarily of the transport mechanisms themselves, and those secondary to general metabolic errors. The first two chapters, on the structure and function of the normal kidney and the available investigation of tubular function, form a valuable introduction to the chapters that follow, dealing in turn with all the known disorders. These are each designed to a pattern of biochemistry, genetics, mechanism and pathogenesis, and treatment, though the order varies somewhat inexplicably from one chapter to the next. Indeed, the chapters themselves seem also to be arbitrarily arranged. Chapter 3, for instance, is concerned with cystinuria and Hartnup disease, defects of