This is difficult to obtain, and centenary reprinting was declined by the editors of several journals, including this one. It has been reprinted in 'Heredity'.


Professor Hutchison has extensively revised and rewritten this 2nd edition. As in the 1st edition, a fairly large proportion of the book is devoted to neonatal problems, with a notably good section on prematurity, but there are sections on all common paediatric conditions. Among others, the chapters on inborn errors of metabolism, and on diseases of the nervous system have been extensively modified. There is a new chapter on accidental poisoning in children, and a good, though brief, chapter on behaviour disorders. Recent advances, including laboratory methods and therapy, figure largely in the revisions that have been made.

The book is easy to read and the material is set out in a logical manner. It is probably sufficiently comprehensive to be of use for undergraduates reading for qualifying examinations, though one would have liked, for this purpose, an account of the normal newborn.

It will also be of value as a guide for general practitioners and for postgraduates who are preparing for the D.C.H. examination, and there is a small list of carefully selected references at the end of each chapter, which greatly increases its value as a postgraduate textbook.

It is a small volume, but the author has avoided being dogmatic, and has combined a refreshing practical approach with a wide personal knowledge of paediatrics.

The price is moderate, the author’s style makes for easy reading, and the book can be fully recommended as a short general textbook on diseases of children.


The experts in computer technology tell us that medical diagnosis will be made rapidly and accurately by means of their machines within a decade, and presumably these machines will be 'programmed' by texts which are expansions of this sort of book. Such texts make dull reading though they may make very useful tools. Professor Illingworth has certainly written much more readable books than this one. The author has clearly had the needs of general practitioners paramount in his mind and the book is much less useful for undergraduates or paediatricians.

About 100 symptoms are dealt with one after another, first by giving a list of the diseases in which the symptom occurs and thereafter by giving a few lines about each disease. Only diagnosis is considered, but some references are given for further reading. This naturally involves an enormous amount of repetition and a great deal of selection by the author, so that some symptoms are dealt with much more fully than others. There are 6 pages on 'stridor' but 6 lines on 'dysuria'.

Where the author has allowed himself room to tell a story, he is at his best and there are good commentaries on the differential diagnosis of pain, jaundice, convulsions, and head size. Throughout there is the unmistakable imprint of the author’s personality, wide experience and knowledge of paediatrics, and this, together with his established reputation for lucid, original writing, will ensure a large circulation among general practitioners.

The book ends with 6 pages on the side-effects of drugs and with an interesting list of 14 specially recommended books.


'The natural history of headaches in children' by Professor Bo Bille is by far the best chapter in this book, both for readability and content. But, though this publication is to be commended for focusing attention on a common childhood problem, in the event the subject does not justify a whole book. It contains little that is new, and among redundancies and repetitions (and some flat contradictions) even sensible and shrewd advice tends to be hidden.


This book is intended for ophthalmologists interested in those eye diseases usually found in childhood. For the paediatrician who wishes to diagnose the eye changes found in his patients, there are better books, as this volume contains too many details of surgical technique and the choice of operation.

This volume should be of particular value to residents coming into contact with childhood diseases for the first time, but it will also be of considerable value to those consultants who see the unusual case infrequently and wish to draw on a large accumulated experience. It is inevitable in a book of this size that there will probably be too much for one group and too little for the other, but the balance has been well maintained.

Developmental anomalies of the eye are common and it is proper that the first chapter should be devoted to the embryology of the eye. The chapters on examination of the eye and refraction have been sensibly confined to the use of techniques particularly appropriate to the examination of children. Strabismus and orthoptics are dealt with in a simple and lucid manner. The diseases of the outer and inner eye are dealt with fully and well, and particular emphasis is given to the thorny problems of cataract and glaucoma, together with the syndromes associated with them.