application of these compounds, but what progress has been made and the limitations of chemotherapy are clearly defined. A number of interesting problems relating to smallpox and vaccinia viruses are discussed by H. S. Bedson and K. R. Dumbell, including the latest information on diagnostic procedures. Accounts of two diseases which still present formidable problems in preventive medicine are included. D. A. J. Tyrrell writes on the common cold and related viruses with an account of new and intriguing techniques for culturing these difficult agents. K. McCarthy and C. H. Taylor-Robinson bring us up-to-date with a chapter on rubella: this is an admirable and well-balanced account and touches upon many facets, the properties of the virus, methods of culture, and prospects of immunization. Reoviruses are also much in the news. Like the mycoplasmas they seem to crop up here and there and it is difficult to determine their role as pathogens. The chapter by N. F. Stanley helps to put the matter in perspective. In the chapter on scrapie, J. T. Stamp gives a fascinating account of this peculiar disease and the even more peculiar causative agent. The author sets out with admirable clarity the wider implications of scrapie with its ramifications in human and veterinary medicine. There is also an interesting account of recent advances in the study of viral oncogenesis. There are many other chapters in the book of a more specific nature, dealing with the morphological and antigenic subunits of viruses, virulence, genetic analysis, defective and delayed infections, and replication of small RNA viruses. These are probably of greater interest to virologists, but there is much in them of general interest to clinicians and pathologists. The Scientific Editor and authors are to be congratulated on yet another admirable edition in this series.


This book gives a full and comprehensive account of the many bacteriological, clinical, and immunological aspects of Haemophilus influenzae. It gives a detailed account of this interesting organism which has turned up in association with so many different clinical conditions in medicine and surgery and has laid many false trails to confuse clinicians and bacteriologists.

The book starts with an historical review of the literature from the first discovery of the organism in 1892, when Pfeiffer originally thought it to be the cause of influenza. Gradually the association of the organism with the disease whose name it bears has been disproved and its significance reduced to that of a mere commensal. The authors go on to describe its Rehabilitation to the status of an important pathogen.

The following chapters deal with the bacteriology of Haemophilus influenzae and discuss the distribution of haemophilus amongst healthy people. The numerous surveys of incidence and carrier rate in many parts of the world ranging from London and other parts of England to the West Indies and New York are concisely summarized.

The authors then go on to discuss the pathogenicity of the organism and the frequent failure of many observers to allow for the normal distribution amongst a healthy population when implicating it as a pathogenic cause.

As befits its importance, Haemophilus meningitis is dealt with in a separate chapter; emphasis is placed on its incidence, age, sex, and race distribution as well as the bacteriology. The carrier rate of haemophilus amongst the families of affected children is discussed. The clinical aspects are also dealt with briefly.

The important place of haemophilus in bronchial disorders is considered next and the difficulties in isolating it from sputum cultures are discussed.

Other conditions with which Haemophilus influenzae can be associated are then reviewed; of these epiglottitis will be of interest to paediatricians, but the chapter includes many other conditions that are only rarely due to haemophilus, such as peritonitis and urinary infection, and conditions such as bronchiolitis in which haemophilus infection is of secondary importance only.

The chapter on chemotherapy is full and comprehensive and includes descriptions of many regimes.

The book ends with a discussion on immunology and looks forward to further research.

This book will be welcomed by paediatricians and chest physicians, and all those who have to deal with Haemophilus influenzae infections. It will help the clinician to understand the bacteriological and immunological problems involved and to fill in the many possible gaps in his knowledge of the epidemiological problems and the relation between the saprophytic and pathogenic forms of haemophilus. It will not, of course, add anything new or give any help in the actual clinical management of haemophilus infections. This would be outside the scope of the book. Nevertheless, there are many summaries of papers published on the clinical and therapeutic aspects.


This is a record of a symposium held in London in November 1965, with 25 members from this country, the U.S.A., Germany, France, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland, and Sweden. With the two earlier symposia, ‘Problems of Pulmonary Circulation’ in November 1960, and ‘Pulmonary Structure and Function’ in July 1961, the Ciba Foundation can congratulate itself on having sponsored a trio of notable publications on the lung.

Hugh-Jones in his opening remarks makes the point that the really fascinating pulmonary aspect of human birth is that the fetus goes from liquid to air breathing, so that there must be a parallel in the phylogenetic problems that animals faced in the development of the lung when they evolved from water to air breathing. Thus ‘Phylogeny of the Lung’ was the theme of the first

Amongst the first group, H. Rahn’s contribution is something of a tour de force: he compared the gill, swimbladder, and placenta as gas-exchangers, predicting mathematically the effect that changes of temperature must have on blood pH, and then confirming the validity of his equations by observation on the turtle, bullfrog, and carp. G. M. Hughes, discussing ‘Evolution Between Air and Water’, provides much additional information about gas exchange in animals such as amphibia which use the skin for respiration.

J. A. Clements led the discussion on the alveolar lung layer, devoting particular attention to the dynamics of the production and disappearance of surfactant, and to the interesting deductions which can be drawn from the temperature dependency of these processes.

These three contributions particularly attracted the reviewer, but doubtless others would pick out a different selection, for the standard of the papers is of the highest. The reported discussions are of the same quality, and provide a great deal of factual information not readily to be found elsewhere.

Esoteric though a discussion of asphyxia in the African catfish may at first sight seem to the practising paediatrician with, let us say, a baby with respiratory distress on his hands, fundamental studies on lung physiology, such as are presented in this book, may well be the means by which new lines of thought eventually lead to practical advances in therapy.


This is a comprehensive book, beautifully produced on fine paper, and with numerous illustrations, chiefly of x-ray films about 4 x 2 in. in size, some slightly larger.

The authors cover most respiratory conditions likely to occur in childhood and many of extreme rarity. A short description is given of each condition with the x-ray findings, differential diagnosis, and treatment.

There is no doubt that a great deal of work has gone into the compiling of this book and that as a reference volume it could well be valuable to the student who wishes to have a list of conditions that may occur in any particular part of the lung. Each chapter is followed by a bibliography and a fair share of these come from this country though most are by United States workers.

On the reverse side of the picture, so much information is included that little of it is of sufficient detail to be of any value to the clinician. The sections on treatment, for instance, are so superficial as to be almost useless and in some cases are inaccurate or misleading. The relative amount of space given to the more common conditions and to very rare conditions seems somewhat undiscriminating.

The over-all impression given by this fine volume is of a Christmas gift book which includes everything but which has not been designed with any particular end in view except to show off a wide range of illustrations and perhaps to help any student with a good enough memory in the appropriate answers to multiple choice questions.


This book is the first of a series of volumes on paediatric radiology aimed at ‘placing emphasis on some areas of current interest’ and ‘reflecting present thinking and approach’ without any attempt at comprehensive cover, and is in fact a collection of contributions from a worldwide scatter of radiologists.

It comprises a wide range of subjects including techniques, radiation protection, specific topics such as pulmonary listeriosis, pneumocystis pneumonia, and more broadly based articles such as the causes of aspiration pneumonia, the problem of recurrent lung disease, and physical and chemical trauma.

One singular chapter on ‘Respiratory distress syndrome’ consists of a description of the entities which may be listed under this heading in the newborn, followed by comments from various authorities and a final word from the original contributor.

The book contains a lot of valuable information about both rare and common lung diseases and associated predisposing conditions, together with a variety of outlooks and individual methods of approach which are both informative and stimulating.

The illustrations are of excellent quality, there are many references at the end of chapters, and the index is comprehensive. The book is not aimed at students but is a valuable addition to the more advanced library and of interest to clinicians as well as radiologists.

One is perhaps struck by the rather loose terminology still in use in this relatively exact field of definition—words such as ‘infiltration’, ‘overaeration’, ‘pneumonitis’, ‘peribronchial thickening’, which have never been clearly defined and may mean different things to different people. Should not radiologists, being dealers in shadows, identify shadow patterns, and not deal in morbid anatomical terms? How, for instance, can one be sure from a radiograph that an area of ‘consolidation’ contains bacteria? May one refer to it as ‘pneumonia’ without this information?


This book, written by a young colleague of the late Homer Smith, is intended for medical students, house officers, and physicians. It is clearly and, on the whole, concisely written, and contains a wealth of helpful