

selected from no less than 650 possible subjects according to whether or not they responded to invitation by telephone or letter, a procedure that must have led to a group that was highly selected in relevant ways; other investigations have shown that co-operation of parents in such studies can be correlated with several factors, including degree of maladjustment of their children. Nevertheless, if one bears these limitations in mind some of the figures arrived at are of interest and support many clinical impressions not previously confirmed by any systematic investigation.

Mild Mental Retardation: a Growing Challenge to the Physician. Formulated by the Committee on Mental Retardation. Vol. VI, Report No. 66. (Pp. 64. \$1.) New York: Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry. 1967.

This interesting memorandum is prepared by a Committee for the Advancement of Psychiatry, an American group of psychiatrists 'organized in the form of a number of working committees that direct their efforts towards the study of various aspects of psychiatry and towards the application of this knowledge to the fields of mental health and human relations'.

The memorandum is concerned with the medical, educational, social, and economic provisions for the educationally subnormal in the United States. The general characteristics of retarded children from privileged socioeconomic groups are contrasted with those of retarded children from underprivileged families and presented as a series of informed but unsubstantiated impressions.

The general conclusion that cultural, social, and economic factors of themselves potentiate a vicious cycle seems to spring more from an awareness of a certain illusory character in 'freedom' and 'democracy' in the underprivileged groups in an acquisitive and materialistic society, than from a clandestine affiliation to the Fabian Society, but regrettably the authors do not cite the evidence for their beliefs. The need for such pamphleteering is not quite the same in the United Kingdom, but this is a provocative tract, with a good deal of practical guidance for doctors involved with the assessment and care of the educationally subnormal.

The Clinical Pathology of Infancy. Compiled and edited by F. WILLIAM SUNDERMAN and F. WILLIAM SUNDERMAN, JR. (Pp. xiv + 565; illustrated + tables. \$26.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1967.

This compilation of over 50 contributions contains the edited proceedings of an applied seminar held by the American Association of Clinical Scientists, presumably in 1966, since no reference later than 1965 is included. It is intended to cover both laboratory techniques and clinical interpretation of laboratory findings, and is divided into 4 sections. The first is the largest and includes the biochemical disorders of infancy; the second surveys mainly endocrinological disorders, but for some

reason contains short articles on cystic fibrosis and bilirubin metabolism which could just as well have been placed in the third section, which is entitled, 'Clinical Pathology of Systemic Diseases in Infancy'. The final section is concerned with cytogenetics.

Progress in the clinical pathology of infancy has been rapid, and it is undoubtedly useful to have up-to-date reviews of recent advances. This book, like most compilations of a large number of contributors, is like the curate's egg, good in parts. The chapter on normal values in clinical chemistry in infancy is particularly useful, but there are far too many which are below standard and some of the titles are actually misleading. One would hardly expect the diagnosis of urinary infection to be the sole topic in an article entitled, 'Laboratory Diagnosis of Renal Diseases in Infancy'. Many papers are too short to be informative, and it is difficult to understand the reason for an article on such an esoteric investigation as, 'Magnetic Orientation of Sickled Erythrocytes'.

Although the intention of the editors was to include details of new laboratory procedures, many articles merely summarize well-known laboratory aids to diagnosis, and editorial control has not been strict enough to prevent overlap. There is, however, an excellent list of references in most chapters.

This is not a book that can be wholeheartedly recommended, and the most striking feature is its high cost which precludes it being bought by the individual. True, it is handsomely printed on first-class paper, but is this necessary in a book which needs to be frequently brought up to date and priced as low as possible?

Cystic Fibrosis. Part I. Physiology and Pathophysiology of Serous Secretion, Clinical Investigations and Therapy. Proceedings of the 4th International Conference on Cystic Fibrosis of the Pancreas (Mucoviscidosis) Berne/Grindelwald 1966. Modern Problems in Pediatrics, Vol. 10. (Pp. xiv + 404; 182 figures + 80 tables. 174s.; sFr./DM 95; \$22.80.) Basel, New York: S. Karger AG. Distribution in UK, London: Academic Press. 1967.

This excellently produced record of the 4th International Conference on Cystic Fibrosis, held at Berne in September 1966, contains a mass of valuable detailed information not published elsewhere. Although as yet there has been no major breakthrough in our knowledge about the fundamental tissue defect in cystic fibrosis, it is fascinating to see here displayed the variety of approaches being energetically pursued to that end. There is much also of direct interest to the paediatrician concerned with the day-to-day treatment of these patients.

The Balkan Nephropathy. Ciba Foundation Study Group No. 30. Edited by G. E. W. WOLSTENHOLME and JULIE KNIGHT. (Pp. 123; illustrated + tables. 15s.) London: Churchill. 1967.

The Balkan nephropathy is a progressive disease of insidious onset, which causes death from renal failure.