First described only 11 years ago, it has an extraordinarily circumscribed geographical distribution and a high rate of local endemicity, often involving several members of affected households, and thus makes an excellent model for an aetiological study.

The first 5 chapters of this book describe the clinical and epidemiological aspects of the disease, as it is seen in Rumania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia, and, because they are largely reviews of already published material, serve a useful purpose for unfamiliar readers. The results of some recent urinary protein studies, using electrophoretic, immuno-electrophoretic, and gel-diffusion techniques are next presented. These indicate that the proteinuria is predominantly of tubular origin—a finding consistent with the morphological changes observed in renal biopsy and necropsy specimens. They also reveal that tubular proteinuria may exist, undetected by less sophisticated methods, in apparently healthy children, at an age when clinical manifestations are rare.

Each chapter consists of a paper followed by a discussion held by a group of distinguished participants. The potential roles of genetics, climate, and altitude, flora and fauna, diet, water supply, and microbial infections are fully discussed and, as the story unfolds, it seems that every conceivable approach has been considered. The purpose of the study group was to muster all the available scientific data in an attempt to throw new light on the aetiology of the disorder, and it is inevitable that many important facts and opinions emerge only during discussion. It is, therefore, necessary to read the whole work, preferably without interruption, if a proper grasp of the subject is to be obtained.

The book is well written and can easily be read in an evening, though the chapters on proteinuria do demand a basic knowledge of modern protein analytical methods. It is not a book for the busy general paediatrician, but will fascinate those interested in epidemiology and the screening of apparently healthy children for subclinical disease, and should certainly be read by nephrophiles.


This ninth volume of the series contains 12 articles, half of which are reviews, on a variety of topical virological subjects, written primarily for virologists but of value to clinicians seeking up-to-date information.

An excellent review of all the viruses so far associated with Burkitt’s lymphoma is written by T. M. Bell. The importance is assessed of the three aetiological candidates, Bunyamwera, reovirus 3, and an unidentified herpes virus, but it is still not possible to say that the tumour is caused by a virus; in fact the author suggests that a simple viral aetiology is unlikely.

Another very useful review is of virus infections of the newborn by Eichenwald, McCracken, and Kindberg who attempt clarification of present ideas on immune mechanisms for protection of the fetus, and describe the viral infections likely to tax them and the pathological changes found in neonates. Rubella is mentioned only briefly, as it was the subject of a complete article in a previous volume.

Johnson, Halstead, and Cohen compare the haemorrhagic fevers of S. America with those of S.E. Asia, in the light of the current hypothesis that dengue haemorrhagic fever is an allergic manifestation of a second or subsequent infection whereas the S. American fevers accompany primary infection. Two other articles on arbovirus infections describe an urban encephalitis outbreak in Houston and a rural encephalitis outbreak in Venezuela.

There is a fascinating review of the cat-scratch syndrome by W. J. Warwick, who has managed to assemble a bibliography of no less than 567 references on this little-known topic.

A brief outline of the most recent work on interferons is provided and other articles include a comparison of herpes viruses, in vitro mouse leukaemia studies, and electron microscopy of in vivo infections.

The standard of this volume compares well with previous issues, and, though several articles are likely to interest most readers, it is basically a reference work.


No one has greater right to prepare such a monograph than Jorgen Pedersen of Copenhagen. He has studied the subject for 20 years and has paid equal attention to mother and baby, both as a critical clinician and as a scientist. He has carefully submitted his results to the searching light of statistical analysis.

All of this experience is now neatly summarized and acceptably presented in this small volume which, in just over 200 pages and almost 400 references, provides the best review yet available. In this subject there is room for controversy, and differences, possibly true differences, exist between different centres, but the author carefully acknowledges these and indicates those areas in which future study is needed.

There are a few misprints, but both the English and the print are clear and pleasing. As inevitably happens in a rapidly expanding field like this, the more recent and often exciting references are omitted, but the years 1966 and 1967 are represented, especially where the author and his colleagues are involved; and they are, of course, still in the forefront of research.


This welcome book should correct many misconceptions about twin placentaion, still current in the teaching of medical students and midwives. Many have the opportunity to examine the placentae of twins:
yet the examination, if made at all, is often perfunctory.
The history of this subject is reviewed, with many original illustrations, and the authors have drawn on non-medical sources, with effect. The pioneer work of Schatz, and other German authors, previously unavailable in translation, is presented in some detail. Though this is one of the purposes of the book, it does unbalance the book a little.
The description of the authors' techniques for the examination of twin placentae is excellent, and the photographs are lucid. Unfortunately, the book appears before the publication of the Birmingham Twin Survey, which is referred to as 'unpublished data'. The authors carried out a twin survey at Oxford which they draw upon. In the section on the determination of zygosity, which is of current interest, they refer only briefly to these surveys. It would have been valuable to have a more detailed analysis of their results and methods of determining zygosity, and the three tables that summarize these aspects of the two surveys are not referred to in the text at all.
Otherwise, the thoroughness of the review is shown by a bibliography of 674 references, which includes work published on the subject from 1900–65. The text is clear, and particularly stimulating is the discussion of further implications and applications of twin studies.


This book is a thorough review of a controversial subject, in which descriptions of treatment and estimation of results are made difficult by our lack of knowledge of the basic pathology and the inaccuracy of assessment of the severity of the deformity at birth. The senior author was in charge of the club-foot clinic at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital for many years, and the junior author has had wide experience of the condition both in this clinic and at The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, and at the Manchester Royal Infirmary. In addition Shaw has produced the first critical evaluation of a series of club-foot patients treated by serial plasters, by manipulation and Denis Browne splints, and by serial stretchings and fixation adhesive strapping applied over felt pads. The figures produced by Shaw show a marked advantage for the series treated by stretching and strapping and this is now the method favoured by the authors.
The book contains an extensive review of the literature of the English-speaking world, and many references to articles in other languages; the historical section forms a sound basis for the authors' explanation of the methods of management which they now adopt. The operations advised are detailed with many excellent photographs, x-rays, and line drawings.
The general presentation of the volume maintains the high standards characteristic of the publishers. This book is very reasonably priced and provides a clear exposition of the present state of knowledge on this subject.


This book is based upon the extensive personal experience of Professor James in London and Edinburgh. There are additional chapters on the inheritance of scoliosis, by Miss Wynne-Davies and on the medical aspects of scoliosis by Dr. Zorab.
Scoliosis is a complex problem with many important factors, including aetiology, being ill understood. Professor James' stated aim is to simplify the subject and give the present concept of this disease and of its treatment. This he has done admirably aided by a very high standard of reproduction of radiographs.

Much of the material presented has appeared previously in the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery over the past 20 years. Here, with new material, it is laid out clearly so that the routine management advocated by the principal author is easily understood. Being written in a dogmatic style, there are, of course, some statements that might be disputed. By comparison, the chapter on experimental scoliosis and on suggested lines of research for preventing the condition in the future is disappointing. However, this aspect is not the prime purpose for this book which is certain to become the standard work for postgraduate instruction on scoliosis, in Britain, for many years.


This book is a reference guide to ocular conditions that are referred to by eponyms rather than by descriptive names; it also includes paediatric and neurological diseases with ocular manifestations as well as some named physical signs concerned with the eye.
It lists nearly 600 conditions in the main section and gives a short account of the general and ocular features of each, together with one or two references to the literature on the subject.
There is also an index which lists abnormalities of the eyes and ocular adnexa, and under each heading there is a list of the possible syndromes in which these abnormalities may occur. There is a small section on surgical eponyms which provides a brief account of how to perform certain operative procedures, but it is too limited to be of use and seems out of place in a book of this nature. But on the whole this book should prove very useful for reference purposes both to ophthalmologists and paediatricians.