In the meantime, if the lessons of this volume are taken to heart with those of the first report, the perinatal mortality will continue to fall and some geographical and social differentials will be reduced.

The book deserves and will have a great success.


This is the 10th volume in the series on ‘Progress in Medical Virology’ first published in 1958. Once again J. L. Melnick, the Editor, has drawn together a panel of experts from all over the world to write about current progress in medical virology, and once again he has achieved a fine balance in his choice of subject matter in this rapidly developing branch of medicine. There is much of interest in this volume to paediatricians and virologists alike. Two chapters on ‘the pathogenesis of viral infections of the fetus’ and on ‘congenital rubella’ will be found of special interest and will bring the reader up-to-date with the latest information on the action of viruses on the mammalian fetus and on the phenomenon of virus persistence. Further chapters on ‘virus interference’, on ‘evaluation of antiviral drugs in volunteers’, and on various aspects of laboratory diagnosis provide good and interesting reading. Throughout this volume the same high standard of presentation has been maintained, and each chapter contains a comprehensive and up-to-date bibliography. This volume is a valuable addition to a valuable scientific series, and is strongly recommended to virologists and clinicians who have an interest not only in prophylaxis, diagnosis, and treatment of viral disease, but in the broader aspects of disease caused by this important group of infectious agents.

**Endocrine and Genetic Diseases of Childhood.**


This thousand-page book covers almost the entire field of genetically determined and endocrine conditions in childhood, and its 57 authors are each of them world-renowned specialists in their own discipline. It is, indeed, as claimed in the preface, a ‘multi-authored text book...’ It can, however, scarcely be considered as suitable reading (as also claimed in the preface) for ‘the student, the house officer and the practitioner...’ The chapters are, for the most part, up-to-date monographs or review articles on highly specialized topics: some are brilliantly successful, and could be most valuable to the paediatrician, and possibly even to the registrar intent on a consultant career. Others are too detailed and erudite for any but the specialist himself, and yet others, and they are too many and long and tiresome to read, not infrequently add confusion to subjects already difficult to understand. Moreover, there is too frequently lack of balance or proportion between one subject and another. What, for instance, whether as student, practitioner, or highly-trained specialist, is one to make on the one hand, of Chapter 9 with 111 pages devoted to chromosome disorders, including minute details of tissue culture technique and slide preparation, or Chapter 10 with 25 pages on periodic paralysis, when cystic fibrosis is dealt with in a chapter of barely 14 pages in which management is covered in a paltry 20 lines and its pulmonary complications dismissed in 6 cryptic words?

It is also difficult to fathom the reasons why the only coloured plate illustrates, in coppery hue, four children with varying degrees of hypothyroidism. In other ways, the printing, binding, illustrations, and figures are of the high order one has come to expect of this publishing house. It is doubtful whether this expensive textbook will satisfy enough readers to make its purchase justifiable by, for instance, a hospital library.

**Calorie Deficiencies and Protein Deficiencies.**


This book documents the proceedings of a small private colloquium held in Cambridge in April 1967. The time between the meeting and the appearance of the book is probably as short as can be attained and is not in this case serious. Nor, for the most part, have the usual deficiencies of congress reports been repeated here, even though a few strange colloquialisms have been retained in the discussions.

A galaxy of well-known talent from all parts of the clinical and experimental world of undernutrition has contributed a series of excellent, informative reviews, and a vivid picture of kwashiorkor and marasmus with their intermediate and allied conditions emerges. As might have been expected from the editors, a generous portion of the book is devoted to experimental investigations in animals, and to a thorough critical consideration of the validity of their extrapolation to man. An impressive case is once more made for the usefulness of combining animal with clinical experiments. Nevertheless, more than half the book is concerned with clinical aspects, human pathology and metabolic patterns, problems of treatment, and such topics as the roles of anaemia, vitamin deficiencies, and toxins.

One is again left wondering just how helpful can the detailed study of the results of disease in advanced human cases be to the discovery of aetiology and pathogenesis. Many of the most characteristic changes of kwashiorkor (for example in amino acid metabolism) are adaptive; and their minute description therefore contributes very little to an understanding of the important early development of the disease. Attempts (and failures) to produce animal models may well contribute more real information about the human condition than many clinicians at present recognize.

There has been a largely sterile battle in recent years over the nomenclature of the diseases considered
here. It is interesting and unusual to find all the chief warriors confronting each other in the flesh: and though signs of academic strife are still occasionally apparent, it is reassuring to find the protagonists more concerned with the realities than with the semantics.

This book will long remain a most valuable, standard text and is strongly recommended to those whose real concern is for the great majority of our children.


This volume is based on a conference held in Jamaica and sponsored by the University of the West Indies in January 1967. The orthopaedic surgeons in that university have long had a particular interest in the growth plate, as *tibia tara* is a common condition there, while comparatively rare in North America and Europe. There are 21 contributors to the 9 chapters, but the editor has avoided the faults of excessive repetition or conflicting statements which sometimes occur in this type of book. Moreover, the style of writing and standard of presentation is unusually uniform. Cross-references are given in the individual chapters, and there is an extensive bibliography and an accurate index.

The term ‘growth plate’ is preferred to ‘epiphysial plate’ as, of course, the plate contributes new bone only to the metaphysis.

As would be expected, the section on renal osteodystrophy by Prof. C. E. Dent is particularly authoritative, but many sections serve to show how little is known of the structure and chemistry of the growth plate and its disorders. Even less is known of the treatment of growth plate problems, but what is known is set out clearly in this volume which will form a useful reference book until out-dated by later research.

The standard of printing and illustration is high.


This collection of a dozen articles is written for non-specialists by acknowledged experts in the field. After an excellent introductory chapter by the Editor on the principles of diagnosis of bleeding disorders, there follow six articles on the management of the hereditary disorders of blood coagulation, covering the general principles, surgical, orthopaedic and dental care, psychiatric and social problems, and genetic counselling. The second section of the book is devoted to the acquired haemorrhagic disorders, and includes accounts of the treatment of the numerous different conditions which result in intravascular coagulation and the ‘defibrination syndrome’, and of the thrombocytopenic and non-thrombocytopenic purpuras.

Considering the compactness of the volume, the whole field is covered remarkably comprehensively.

Many of the chapters include quite detailed therapeutic instructions, and each is completed by a carefully chosen set of references. The index is disappointingly uninformative, but frequent cross-reference between the chapters make this fault a minor one. The book can be thoroughly recommended to all clinicians who are concerned with the management of this group of disorders.


This book reports the proceedings of the First National Symposium on Urinary Tract Infection held in April 1968, and with only two exceptions the papers are reproduced in full. At the end of each paper there is a précis of the subsequent discussion and a useful, sometimes exhaustive, bibliography. Among many interesting articles, it is worth mentioning those dealing with urine as a bacterial growth medium, and some intriguing data derived from models or computers simulating a urinary tract. Papers describing the special problems of diagnosis in small infants, and suprapubic aspiration as the technique for obtaining satisfactory urine specimens, deserve attention. Indeed the list could be greatly extended. The book is a stimulating collection of information, valuable especially as a source of reference to recent advances in this field, and very useful as an aide-mémoire to those who attended the original symposium. As a collection of papers it is necessarily very heterogeneous in content and style, prone to repetition in places, and lacking emphasis in others.

Limitation of time at the original presentation accounts for many of the omissions, as the editors readily acknowledge, and, provided the book is not regarded as a comprehensive account of urinary tract infection, the reader will not be disappointed by its contents. The book is reasonably priced, contains a wealth of up-to-date information legibly presented and clearly illustrated. It can be recommended to anyone interested in the topic who needs some fresh stimulating ideas.


This symposium consists of 33 papers on research relating to muscle disorders. The opening lecture by Nattrass reviews succinctly the development of ideas on muscle disease since Duchenne's description of the pseudohypertrophic variety exactly a 100 years ago. The remaining papers are grouped into 4 chapters: clinical and genetic studies, anatomical and pathological studies, biochemical studies, and neurophysio-