a great deal of thought. Though it is designed for use in a children's hospital, I think that, ideally, when further improvements have been made, the finally agreed changes should be incorporated in a revised World Health Organisation manual. The concept of a uniform international classification of disease is essential to the orderly advance in scientific knowledge made possible by statistical analysis on a large scale by computer.

**Book Reviews**


Based on a symposium held in Oxford in July 1968, this book has three main sections—on acute virus diseases of the nervous system, slow virus diseases, and associations between viruses and malignancy. The most remarkable recent advances have concerned two rare human diseases and one of sheep. Kuru is confined to New Guinea, transmitted by cannibalism, and caused by an agent with unusual properties. Subacute sclerosing leukoencephalitis is now known to be due to 'temperate' infection by measles virus. Scrapie is a recessively inherited disease of sheep, but a transmissible factor ('proivirus') is produced in the affected animal. It remains to be seen whether these discoveries will prove relevant to commoner problems like disseminated sclerosis or will remain scientifically fascinating oddities. More conventional aspects of CNS virology are generally well covered, though naturally a symposium is not a textbook; it is interesting that poliomyelitis can now go virtually unmentioned. The discussions are interesting and helpful, edited with a reasonable compromise between conciseness and colloquialism. This is a difficult task, and in places the editorial pencil could have been used more drastically. Rather than solemnly print 'a paper in the Journal of Experimental Medicine, I'm afraid I forget the author's', it would have been better to ask the discussant to supply the exact reference. It is also unsatisfactory to pass a sentence which implies, even if unintentionally, that chickenpox is caused by herpes simplex virus (p. 69). However, the editors are to be congratulated on having this book published within a year of the symposium. The paediatrician will find something of clinical value in it, and a good deal more of general medical and scientific interest.


The second edition of this book is half as long again and costs twice as much as the original, published 5 years ago. Its many merits were referred to in the previous review in the *Archives* (40, 234, 1965). It will certainly remain the standard and indispensable reference work on muscle disorders. Some of the increase in length has been made necessary by the rapid advances in techniques for studying muscle, which are well described. However, the multiple authorship does seem to have resulted in more repetition than is really needed by the editor's desire that each chapter should stand as a comprehensive essay in its own right. The pathology of nemaline myopathy is described in similar terms, though at varying length, in 5 different places. Here, as elsewhere, some economy could surely have been made by cross-references. It would be useful instead to hear a little more about the clinical picture of this condition, and it would be tidier if its original description were not attributed to two different sets of authors on p. 162 and p. 303.

It is too much to hope that the next edition will cost less, but at least it should be made more compact. This book is much too useful to be allowed to suffer a pseudo-hypertrophic dystrophy.

**Atlas of Mental Retardation Syndromes: Visual Diagnosis of Facies and Physical Findings.** Edited by Drs. Sidney S. Gellis and Murray Feingold. (Pp. x+188; illustrated with colour
leads to his contribution in understanding or solving a problem.’ We cannot recommend this book to paediatricians.


Although the volumes in this series are intended to act as summaries of recent work rather than as comprehensive textbooks, the first volume, entitled ‘Modern Perspectives in Child Psychiatry’ did in fact follow the pattern one would expect of a textbook in child psychiatry and was probably mainly of interest to workers in this field. The present volume not only draws upon a wider range of knowledge by including authors from many cultures, but at the same time deals extensively with modern research into basic principles of child development and its disorders, in a way that should make it as interesting and rewarding to paediatricians as to their psychiatric colleagues.

In his introduction Leo Kanner contributes an excellent and balanced account of the development of child psychiatry, emphasizing particularly its unfortunate neglect of paediatrics in its highly productive but limiting preoccupation with psychoanalysis and psychotherapy. He rightly criticizes Child Guidance Clinics for the rigid crystallization into what he calls the ‘Holy Trinity’ of psychiatrist, psychologist, and psychiatric social worker, and for the increasing isolation of psychiatry from the mainstream of medicine which has followed.

In the first section, dealing with basic principles of child development and their relevance to its disorders, D. H. Stott contributes a comprehensive review of research on the relationship between the physical and psychological hazards of pregnancy and later abnormalities in the child. Stella Chess reviews the research on an interaction of temperament, environment, and parental attitudes in the genesis of emotional disorders, emphasizing the need for investigation of neurological and physical handicap as well as temperamental and intellectual capacities. Though one-sided in its neglect of dynamic considerations, it forms a useful corrective to our current excessive preoccupation with unconscious emotional determination.

While Chess focuses largely on data from large-scale, superficial studies, M. David and G. Appell restore the balance with a beautiful study in which the interaction between mother and infant was observed in the greatest detail in a small number of families. Their demonstration of the profound way in which maternal attitudes are transmitted to infants is completely convincing, and though most practising child psychiatrists may have been forced to similar conclusions already, careful perception of the subtle mechanics of the process does much to reduce the uncertainties inevitable with the coarse observations on which routine clinical work must be based. This is complemented by a most interesting paper by P. H. Wolff describing in detail the attitudes and concerns of mothers before birth, events during labour and delivery, and the subsequent

Book Reviews

Mental Retardation: Diagnosis and Treatment.

It is not clear for whom this book is intended, though the editor says in his Preface that it aims ‘to bridge the gaps, both real and semantic, that so often exist between [the various disciplines]’. The contributions of the 17 authors are illogically arranged; for example a chapter on metabolic and endocrine causes of retardation, and another on degenerative diseases causing retardation, are separated by four other assorted chapters including one on psychiatric management of the mentally retarded child. Little thought seems to have been given to the relevance and importance of the material included. The style is irritating; no one will be better informed nor will any gaps, semantic or otherwise, be bridged by such tautologous definitions as ‘A psychological evaluation has been defined essentially as the activity engaged in by the psychologist, whether testing, interviewing, or whatever, which