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 psychiatrist-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 the 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