

Book Reviews

Modern Trends in Paediatrics.—3. Edited by JOHN APLEY. (Pp. x + 347; figures + tables. £4.20.) London: Butterworth. 1970.

The title 'Modern Trends' suggests that the reader can expect something more than a refresher course of good up-to-date reviews, and in this book he gets more. Some of the papers are, indeed, straightforward and very good reviews—for example, Professor Charlotte Anderson on malabsorption and Dr. Komrower on screening for metabolic errors. Three other especially successful chapters are Dr. Ronald Finn's on the prevention of Rhesus haemolytic disease, which must be one of the clearest accounts available of the less obvious facts about the pathogenesis of this disease; Dr. H. E. M. Kay's on chemotherapy of malignant disease, which, because it looks at fundamental principles as well as current practice, will not be made obsolete in another year by further advances; and Dr. Brian Wharton's on child health and nutrition—for the well-judged and readable way in which he leads one through a vast literature. However, two of the best chapters are not so much reviews as brilliant expositions of hypotheses—Professor E. Z. Saling on the oxygen-conserving adaptation of the fetal circulation and Dr. C. O. Ounsted on the autistic and hyperkinetic syndromes. Both offer ideas that are stimulating, clearly expressed, intellectually satisfying, and amenable to empirical testing. What more could one ask in a book on 'Modern Trends'? Does this book give a fair picture of the current movements in paediatrics? It is a little surprising to find only one chapter—on surgery—specifically devoted to the newborn baby, though of course he is mentioned in other chapters. On the other hand it seems entirely right that the first three chapters should be concerned with the fetus. The modern trend towards a more socially outward-looking paediatrics is reflected in Dr. Ronald MacKeith's admirable chapter on the needs of the handicapped child.

This is a book for the paediatrician to read and keep.

Clinical Paediatric Surgery, Diagnosis and Management. By the Staff of the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. Edited by PETER G. JONES. (Pp. 511; illustrated. £6.00.) Bristol: John Wright and Sons. 1970.

The increasing range and improvement in the results of surgical treatment in childhood and especially in the neonatal period make adequate instruction in paediatric surgery more than ever an essential part of the medical students' curriculum. However, there are still many medical books where little time is spared for this, and for the students and graduates of such institutions this book will provide an excellent substitute. There are

68 chapters and 7 appendices on a wide variety of subjects such as vomiting in the first month of life, infections, constipation, and its sequelae, or posture and gait; other aspects are dealt with on a regional or organ basis.

The emphasis is on symptoms, signs, diagnosis, when treatment is usually needed, and enough about it to provide a reasonable understanding of its nature and risks. The layout is attractive at first sight but there is perhaps too much variety of type. There are good cross-references between the sections, and a list of recommended reading at the end of each chapter.

It contains an immense amount of information, almost certainly more than is necessary for the undergraduate, but one can imagine it being used by his teacher for a quick refresher before a clinic. There are many good diagrams but it might have been better to label them differently.

This book can be strongly recommended to senior medical students, recent graduates, and paediatricians, for it has much in it of value to them all, but it seems a pity that it should have to be so expensively, if beautifully, produced. There are probably few students who can afford £6 for a book about what many of them, and their teachers, still regard as a small-print subject, and one wonders whether the publishers would consider a less costly edition next time.

Educational Medicine. By F. E. JAMES. (Pp. 185; figures + tables. £1.25.) London: William Heinemann. 1970.

This book was written 'to provide an elementary textbook on the technical aspects' of educational medicine for doctors entering the school health service. One-third of the book is given to a clinically-oriented discussion about medical examinations of schoolchildren in general, and about vision, hearing, and speech in particular. There follow shorter chapters on children with other educational handicaps: the maladjusted, educationally subnormal, physically handicapped, delicate, and epileptic. Brief reference is made to ascertainment, assessment, and special educational treatment of handicapped pupils and the book concludes with chapters on developmental paediatrics, reading difficulties, infections in schoolchildren and health education.

There is indeed a dearth of concise textbooks which can be recommended to doctors who want to practise school medicine, but *Educational Medicine* is hardly going to remedy this. The treatment of some subjects is too superficial to be of practical use, while that of others takes too much for granted. For example, it was felt unnecessary to describe the various types of accommodation and special apparatus available to