gestation are of little relevance seems to derive from retrospective studies of children at normal schools. The dramatic effect of increasing maternal age and parity—average intelligence of offspring moving in the opposite direction—is largely a reflection of social background, the differences within families being very small in comparison with the differences between them.

The epidemiology of childhood cancers, with special reference to the work of the Oxford survey, is reviewed by Dr. Alice Stewart and Dr. Barber, who plead cogently that theories of causation for adult cancers are probably not applicable to the cancers of early life. Childhood malignancy also features in the article by Mr. Burkitt and Miss Cook on cancer in Africa.

Space does not permit reference to the remaining contributions which include a stimulating and cautionary paper on unwanted effects of drugs by Professor Richard Doll, but every one is authoritative, interesting, and eminently readable. If there yet breathes a paediatrician who is content to sit in his clinic and wait for the sick and the handicapped to come and see him, this volume will give a new dimension to his life.

**Infant Feeding and Feeding Difficulties.** 4th ed.
By Ronald Mac Keith and Christopher Wood.

This book provides a great deal of information, set out in a clear and pleasantly readable style. Paediatricians tend to adopt one of two attitudes to the subject of infant feeding: either they are bored by it, or they hold strong but idiosyncratic opinions based upon no solid facts. Mac Keith and Wood succeed in infusing a sense of lively enthusiasm into their writing, but without dogmatism. Indeed, a somewhat more positive attitude towards some of the debatable aspects of the subject would not have come amiss. For instance, the authors' rather tepid preference for a measure of 'humanization' of cows' milk could have been less tentatively expressed, and so could their comments on the current fashion for introducing solids ever earlier in the baby's life, and on the question of the special nutritional needs of the premature baby.

Their gentle approach to such controversial matters is in keeping with the fundamentally laissez-faire attitude to infant feeding which has been characteristic of paediatricians for the last two or three decades. In giving advice, the authors are always careful to avoid going beyond what are solidly ascertained facts. Since nothing is known about the long-term effects of different feeding schedules, and since most babies will thrive on almost any type of feed, the reader would be apt to infer there is little reason to prefer one feed to another.

This criticism apart, and indeed the authors may not consider it so, the book has few faults; but a detailed and authoritative account of intravenous alimentation with the modern lipid-amino acid solutions would have been useful. A good feature is the carefully selected list of references at the end of each chapter.