

Book reviews

Childhood Disorder. A Psychosomatic Approach. By PHILIP PINKERTON. (Pp. xii + 192; 10 figures + 9 tables. £3.75). St. Albans: Crosby Lockwood Staples. 1974.

Dr. Pinkerton 'presents clinical disorder in childhood as the outcome of continuous interaction between the child and his personal environment, including parental attitudes, school atmosphere, and his social background'.

The chapter on therapy (pp. 151 to 166) gives special attention to 'listening'. It is good. An earlier section (pp. 140-150) on adolescence is also good. Chapter 12 on the psychosomatic concept adds 'the psychosocial sequence' and 'the pseudosomatic sequence' to the more familiar terms 'somatopsychic' and 'psychosomatic'. These may become useful new ideas. This chapter might usefully have been put near the beginning of the book.

This is not so much a book to consult for guidance on individual symptoms as a book for a doctor new to these ideas to read through for new attitudes. But to some extent it is COIK (comprehensible only if known). What the beginner needs is guidance on the sort of reasonably hard evidence that supports a hunch that a bodily symptom arises in the psyche rather than in the soma—more than the evidence of 'nil organic'. It would have been helpful to discuss the words 'sensitive' (p. 32) and 'overprotective' (p. 33), and why is 'volatile' the term for the child with aggressive behaviour? To say (on p. 39), 'A competitive society makes certain demands on every child', seems to me to assume that middle class attitudes are common to all classes, which I doubt, just as I doubt whether 'in socioeconomic adversity, family relationships tend to be irregular'.

This is a book with many thoughtful ideas, which will suit some tastes more than others.

The Residential Psychiatric Treatment of Children. Edited by PHILIP BARKER. (Pp. xiii + 354; illustrated + tables. £7.50.) London: Granada. 1974.

This is the first systematic account of psychiatric inpatient resources for children in Britain. The contributors, each with special experience in a particular aspect of the subject, bring together in a well-produced volume a great deal of useful and interesting material. There are chapters dealing with the management of neuroses, psychoses, conduct disorders, psychosomatic disorders, language disorders, epilepsy, and brain damage. The Editor provides an historical introduction, a general survey, and a review of follow-up studies. A useful appendix provides details of residential units in the United Kingdom. Particularly valuable is the discussion of the role and training of the child psychiatric nurse.

This is essentially a pragmatic account and is likely to be of most use to those actively engaged in inpatient work with disturbed children.

Diets for Sick Children. 3rd Edition. By DOROTHY E. M. FRANCIS. (Pp. xii + 434; 136 tables. £7.50.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1974.

This new edition of an excellent reference book has been considerably extended and revised. The addition of references within each chapter will prove very useful, as will the new chapter on vitamin D and mineral supplements in therapeutic and synthetic diets, and two short appendices on borderline substances and metric conversion. Lists of commercially available products suitable for each diet have been omitted since their composition is liable to frequent changes and it is safer to obtain regular information from manufacturers themselves. However, lists of suitable basic foods and a wide range of recipes have been retained, together with much fuller information on special products available.

There is an excellent section on normal feeding including breast feeding, a detailed comparison of artificial baby milks, and guidelines for weaning and for feeding each age group. The physiological background to each disease has been explained in greater detail and most of the chapters have been extended, including those on coeliac disease, tube feeding, renal disease, various fat-restricted diets, carbohydrate intolerances, phenylketonuria, amino acid disorders, and organic acidaemias. New chapters have been included on the dietary treatment of cystic fibrosis and achieving adequate nutrition in multiple malabsorption or protracted diarrhoea. There are also excellent tables on amino acid disorders and a chart of the physiology of absorption of the major foodstuffs. The advice given in the chapters on balance studies and diets for special tests can be applied to use for adults.

The additional information provided in this new edition should ensure that it will be acknowledged as an indispensable reference book for paediatricians, physicians, medical students, and dietitians.

Neonatal Medicine. Edited by F. COCKBURN and C. M. DRILLIEN. (Pp. x + 873; illustrated + tables. £15.75.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1974.

There are 16 contributors to this book which is intended as a practical guide, particularly for paediatric registrars and senior nursing staff in special care and premature baby units. It has many good points but several faults, not the least of which is its price. This must surely be due, at least in part, to its being over-ambitious. It tends to overlap too far with standard paediatric texts. Furthermore, there is a certain

disparity in the relative amount of space given to problems in comparison with their actual occurrence; for example, only 43 pages are devoted to respiratory disorders, whereas there are 107 pages on neurology.

The chapters on small-for-dates infants, metabolism and its disorders, pharmacology, infections, renal disorders, and practical procedures are good, and there is a comprehensive list of normal values for the constituents of blood, urine, CSF, and faeces which might prove invaluable as these data are often not readily accessible. A short section on the perinatal necropsy could also be useful. The inclusion of a chapter on care in tropical countries is an excellent idea, though one questions whether this large and expensive book is the right place for it. Haematological disorders are well covered, especially disseminated intravascular coagulation, but the author, having sounded a warning note about the possible long-term ill-effects of phototherapy, immediately proceeds to advocate its use in *all* infants whose bilirubin rises above 10 mg/100 ml!

The chapter on respiratory disorders is disappointing and there is a somewhat unfortunate separation between the section dealing with asphyxia and that concerned with immediate respiratory problems, such as hyaline membrane disease. The chapter on gastrointestinal diseases is insufficient; by contrast, the one on neurology seems too long. Photographs and *x*-rays are all together in one section. These are informative as far as they go but more *x*-rays might with advantage have been included. The index is adequate, but more cross-referencing in the text would have been desirable.

This book deserves a place on the shelves of neonatal departments, but the would-be individual purchaser is advised to look at other books on neonatology before buying this one.

The Child at School. A Paediatrician's Manual for Teachers. R. S. ILLINGWORTH. (Pp.xii+301. £5.00.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1974.

Your reviewer is puzzled by this new publication, which seems to be no more than another, expensive version of the author's earlier (80p) book *The Normal School Child—His Problems, Physical and Emotional* (1964). The new book is subtitled 'A Paediatrician's Manual for Teachers', but the content and style is little different. The first three chapters are concerned with pre- and postnatal factors, mainly social and psychological, that affect behaviour; discipline and punishments; and behaviour disorders. It is disconcerting that these precede chapters on physical growth, puberty, and normal development of young children; and that prominence is given in the chapter on behaviour disorders to juvenile delinquency, drugs, and smoking without reference to physical and psychological changes characteristic of puberty and adolescence. There follow chapters summarizing the role of developmental testing in infancy, variations in mental ability, and learning disorders (dyslexia); the clumsy child, overactivity, and brain damage are treated separately. Educational subnormality is confused with

mental subnormality and the significance and implications of medical factors in educational retardation are not made clear for the practising teacher. Blindness, deafness, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and spina bifida are discussed in a long chapter on handicapped children; speech problems are covered separately. The book ends with chapters on common symptoms and diseases, infectious diseases, accidents, and psychoses.

There are two principal reasons why this book is unlikely to become a 'must' for teachers, whether they are qualified or in training. The first is its price. The second is that although it has a liberal sprinkling of references and other reading material, it is not sufficiently orientated to the child in school nor practical enough as a teacher's manual. For instance, in the management of the mentally handicapped child the paediatrician's responsibility is seen as trying '... to help the parents in their management of the child ...'; and in the prevention of accidents, 'Parents (and teachers) must always stop dangerous practices ...'; high-tone deafness is not explained and its only stated consequence for the child in school is lateness in talking and an inability to appreciate music; and whereas the relevance of 5 hydroxytryptamine, noradrenaline, and dopamine to mood regulation is mentioned, the use and care of hearing aids is not.

Recent Advances in Paediatric Surgery. No. 3. Edited by ANDREW W. WILKINSON. (Pp. ix + 220; illustrated and tables. £7.00.) Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone. 1975.

The third number in this series contains 16 excellent articles by 19 authors reviewing the growing fringe of surgical paediatrics. Many concern complications that may be encountered in surgical patients. Only 6 contributions are from surgeons, namely those on cardiac surgery, ureterovesical operations, abnormalities of the bile ducts, meconium ileus, stapled sutures, and laryngeal disorders. Paradoxically, this selection enhances the value of the volume, for like other specialists, surgeons are anxious to learn of advances in diverse fields that relate to their own work. Thus the subjects chosen include genetics, haematology, pulmonary function, anaesthesia, and respiratory intensive therapy, renal failure, chemotherapy for solid tumours, and immunology.

All the authors are experts in their own fields. The content of individual contributions has been adjusted largely to the needs of the surgical reader, but on occasion this task has been difficult. Language can present a problem, it is not easy for the uninitiated to comprehend a phrase such as 'a dimer with an extra polypeptide chain—secretory piece'. Elsewhere perfect understanding may depend on consulting a reference given in the text, such as that defining truncus arteriosus types I, II, and III. Some of the undefined abbreviations in initial letters will cause fewer problems, as most readers will know that PVC is polyvinylchloride and that IPPV is intermittent positive pressure ventilation. To comprehend the detailed advice on where, when, and how stapled sutures can be used in paediatric