very high quality of the large number of radiographic illustrations greatly adds to the book. Dr. R. D. Hoare, the neuroradiologist largely concerned with these deserves great credit, as do the publishers for the excellence of the reproduction.

There is no doubt that every paediatric department should have a copy of this book, and many paediatricians would feel more comfortable if they had a copy on their own shelves.


The first edition of this book was reviewed critically in the Archives (1969, 44, 548). Many of the criticisms of its content remain valid. It is not clear why these particular disorders are grouped in one textbook, and the absurdity of dealing with cystic fibrosis in less than 2 pages persists. Nevertheless, it must be acknowledged that this book has established itself as a standard text on paediatric endocrinology, and that it is an excellent reference source. The sections on inborn errors of metabolism are patchier—some excellent, some, like that on porphyrias, disappointing. However, the hospital library which did not purchase the first edition after reading our review will probably have to think again.


If this reviewer had to select from his expanding paediatric library the books which he finds most indispensable, he would choose the row of Year Books of Pediatrics. Most practising paediatricians probably use textbooks relatively little in deciding about patient management. When we are confronted with an unfamiliar problem, or one where we are not sure of the latest developments, we want to be sure the information we get is not too out-of-date, so we are more interested in recent articles in journals than in textbook statements. The Year Book of Pediatrics is probably the easiest place to get this information quickly. Each contains clear and readable abstracts of about 400 articles, often with pithy and illuminating comments by Sydney Gellis, the editor, or others. Whereas abstracts are frequently indigestible, these Year Books are always a pleasure to dip into.

The conscientious reader of his journals will enjoy being reminded of articles he read during the previous year and seeing informed comments on them. But even the most conscientious reader of paediatric journals will find much here that is new, because the papers described include many from journals outside the range of regular paediatric reading. (Incidentally, since American authors are sometimes accused of only reading American journals, it is satisfactory to see frequent references to papers in the Archives as well as other European journals.) A new Year Book is always a source of pleasure as well as a mine of useful and well indexed information.


This book consists of multiple choice questions, occasionally interspersed with very brief explanations, grouped under chapter headings which cover the major parts of paediatrics. It will probably be of interest to two main groups. The first are those preparing for higher examinations. They will find that it is more challenging than an ordinary textbook, and contains a large amount of factual information, but they will do well to check the accuracy of some of the answers against their own experience and other sources. The second group are the increasing numbers of teachers who find themselves setting multiple choice examinations. They too will find this a useful source of ideas, but it illustrates some of the difficulties of setting questions of this kind. Most experts recommend sticking to one form of question throughout the paper, and avoiding double negatives, so as to avoid confusing candidates. This book uses several different forms of questions, and even without the stresses of an examination this reviewer sometimes got the wrong answers simply from misunderstanding. Furthermore, some of the answers with double and treble negatives were so tortuous that they remained obscure even when one had looked at the key. However, even after making these excuses he found that the book revealed a lot of gaps in his knowledge. A stimulating and thought-provoking little book.