

subsection of the population or from a few extreme examples known personally to them." p. 202.

This is not the only optimistic deduction made by the author. He not only demonstrates that in East London family ties embrace grandparents as firmly as they ever did, but also that there is a practical reason for this. He shows how great and active a contribution the grandparents make in return for the help they receive. They are by no means just dependent relatives.

Although this is a source-book it is full of humanity, in both senses of the word. It is not to be read without effort, but this the author realizes; he wonders in a wistful and engaging way whether there are readers of enough stamina to study this and its companion volume.

**Handbook of Treatment of Acute Poisoning.** E. H. BENSLEY, M.B.E., B.A., M.D., F.A.C.P. and G. E. JORON, B.A., M.D., C.M., F.A.C.P. Second edition. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., Edinburgh and London, 1958. pp. xii and 212. Price 15s.

This excellent book is intended to help the practitioner who is faced with the emergency of acute poisoning in any of the commoner forms. The first section sets forth in clear, readable English the general principles of treatment, and outlines methods. A second section deals with individual poisons, and the text is so arranged that the important points stand out. Just enough explanatory material is included to lend significance to the instructions given.

An appendix deals with the composition of an emergency poison kit and with the collection of samples for analysis. A short "bibliography" completes the work.

In the section on barbiturate poisoning, the authors appear to favour picrotoxin, though they describe bemegride also. Not all clinicians are agreed on this. But changing fashions apart, the work is modern and reliable, and is confidently recommended as exceptional value for money. The letterpress and binding are a credit to the publishers.

**Having a Baby.** J. F. ROBINSON, M.B., CH.B. Second Edition, 1958. London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., pp. viii + 100. Price 6/6.

This excellent little book gives much useful advice and information to the young woman, married or about to be married. The facts are stated in simple language which can be understood by the majority, though here and there words are used which might be found difficult by some readers—such as contraception, endometrium, cilia, nuclei.

It would have been better if Chapter 4, on sterility and artificial insemination had been put at the end of the book, possibly as an

appendix. It gives a wrong sense of proportion to draw attention to these facts before describing the normal course of events. The presence of unusual food fads might have been added to the other symptoms of early pregnancy.

Dr Robinson rightly stresses the important role of the family doctor in the supervision of pregnancy. Some general practitioners would not agree that the individual patient is given more time at a clinic than by their own doctor. The treatment of the Rh factor is very sane and likely to allay many of the fears that have been aroused by the undue publicity given to this subject. The comparison of a baby's growth to that of a plant is good and likely to be appreciated by a young mother-to-be.

The instructions on breast feeding are sound, though necessarily compressed. It is a pity that mothers are instructed to follow the directions on the tin for bottle feeding. A simple formula based on the weight of the child would often prevent later digestive difficulties.

In spite of these minor criticisms, this little book can be confidently recommended to patients.

**Breast Feeding.** A guide to the natural feeding of infants. By F. CHARLOTTE NAISH, M.A., M.D.(CANTAB.); Foreword by PROF. ALAN MONCRIEFF. Second edition. London Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd. 1956. pp. 157. Price 12s. 6d.

This is the second edition of a work which earned the distinction of the Sir Charles Hastings Clinical Essay Prize of the British Medical Association for "research and record in general practice". This edition makes further important contributions to an often neglected subject, for breast feeding is considered in all its aspects and by one who has the dual authority of mother and family doctor.

The book is intended for "general practitioners, midwives and health visitors" who will welcome the practical advice, for they are all too well aware in their daily work of the problems and prejudices built up around this subject. It is to be hoped that it will be studied also by doctors and nurses in hospitals where the seeds of unsatisfactory lactation are often sown unwittingly from lack of knowledge or time.

As in the first edition chief emphasis is laid on the psychological aspect, and the chapter on "The Mind of the Mother" remains the most important and its purport is repeated in later passages.

There are other excellent sections on the physiology of lactation, the supervision of in-laws, "rooming in" and "demand feeding" ("nothing new but the words"), the feeding of twins and many others. The third and fourth weeks—"the danger weeks"—so well