

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

known to the general practitioner, health visitor and clinic worker are fully discussed and remedies suggested. There is a good index.

This is altogether a comprehensive, instructive, and thought-provoking work from one who writes not only with clinical experience but with "unlimited patience and a deep love of babies".

Eire Hospital and Health Services: notes and impressions. JOHN DODD, B.COM.A.C.I.I., British Hospitals Contributory Schemes Association. Bristol. 1957. Price 10/-.

This account of one man's impressions during the International Hospital Federation Study Tour of Ireland in May 1956, will be of particular interest to Irish graduates, although of the voluntary general hospitals in Dublin, only the Meath and Mater are given detailed consideration. Mr Dodd does not confine himself too rigidly to medical matters and touches on a variety of subjects ranging from the moral aspects of sweepstakes to the massacre of Smerwick in 1580 !

There are a number of appendices giving plans and statistics of 24 Dublin and provincial hospitals.

Die Gezielte Diagnostic in der Praxis

Dr Robert N. Braun writes that the comparison made by the reviewer of his monograph between his figures for otitis media, peptic ulcer and hypertension and those of Dr Fry are not borne out in other surveys such as the Statistics on Medical and Population Subjects No. 7 and 9 and those of McGregor, R. M. (1950), and Horder, J. and Horder, E. (1954). Our reviewer makes the following comment:—

"Until, if ever, there is a clear definition of diagnostic entities and this is generally agreed on, statistics of large groups must remain as vague as the various diagnosis are. As long as Fry does not know that Braun does not know that Horder does not know the exact meaning of a diagnostic label, no classification of such labels can make more sense than any other and each will be of use 'only in a broad fashion'."

"The figures of Fry being at variance with those of others do not prove Fry to be wrong but show irrefutably that comparison of large group statistics of whatever system are not very satisfactory."

The Technique of Intramuscular Injection

Intramuscular injection of Imferon often causes an unsightly blemish in the skin which may take as long as a year to fade. This is not free from danger and has even led to legal proceedings being instituted for loss of professional earnings. An instructive film strip has been designed by Messrs Benger with the object of teaching students and nurses the best method of injecting this preparation. The points made are useful and can equally be applied to the method of injection of any intramuscular medicament.