

Handbook of Paediatrics. Sixth edition. H. K. SILVER, M.D., C. H. KEMPE, M.D., and H. B. BRUYN, M.D. Los Altos, California. Lange Medical Publications. Oxford. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1965. Pp. iii+617. Price 37s. 6d.

This is the sixth edition of *Handbook of Paediatrics*, the authors having maintained their usual practice of revising the entire text every two years. The handbook ranges over the entire field of paediatrics and, like the other books in this series, it is written virtually in note form; to say the least it is concise, although it does contain 600 pages of text. The authors state that their book is not a substitute for a textbook of paediatrics but a supplement; complete source references are not given.

The text contains several tables and diagrams, together with a few black and white drawings but there are no x-ray photographs. Being an American publication the drug trade names differ from those in use in Great Britain, however in all cases the full chemical name is given. There are several minor errors in the printing. For example on page 83 whilst dealing with the treatment of infectious diarrhoea one is advised to rapidly dehydrate the patient rather than to rehydrate. On page 95 the formula of carbonic acid is wrongly given in the Henderson-Hasselbalch equation, and on page 238 in the section on chronic otitis media, the author appears to talk of the ear drug rather than drum.

The handbook concludes with a lengthy appendix which contains a long list of recommended paediatric drug doses, a table of chromosomal disorders and the usual blood chemistry and haematological norms. table

The authors in their preface state that "... the concise format used tends towards over-simplification and dogmatism". This is ideal both for the busy general practitioner and for the medical student, for whom this handbook can be highly recommended.

Radiology for General Practitioners and Medical Students. DAVID SUTTON, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.F.R. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1965. Pp. vii+87. Price 12s. 6d.

When Dr David Sutton accepted Dr Thompson's invitation to contribute a series of articles to *The Practitioner* designed to bridge for general practitioners the gaps in their knowledge of radiology and the immense strides made in this branch in recent years, he proved himself to have that rarest of all gifts—that of making his subject and teaching capable of being grasped and understood by the ordinary man. The immediate reaction to the appearance of these articles was a spate of requests for reprints and now the whole have been collected into a small and most convenient book. All the more common investigations are clearly displayed and described and the more difficult procedures made to appear not so desperate as is often imagined. The pictures are excellent. Now that direct access to radiological departments is becoming more generally available to general practitioners, a knowledge of the help and scope of assistance possible is important, and this small volume should prove invaluable, and find an honoured place on the doctor's bookshelf.