microbiology and epidemiology. I find science more satisfying when I glimpse its unity. The story of these antibiotics illustrates a continuing interaction of intellectual and practical endeavour, and this is what the book is about.

The fascination to the author is transmitted to the reader. The first three short chapters on the discovery of penicillin in 1929, on the position 10 years later and finally 20 years later, are as good a review of the position as can be found.

But the real fascination of the book lies in its subsequent chapter where the development of the newer penicillins, right up to cephalosporin are discussed, and make one read on in the tradition of the best ' greenbacks '. Interactions made of action, toxicity, resistance, allergy to penicillin, and the epidemiological impact are briskly, yet fully discussed in the subsequent chapters.

Do not let yourself be put off by the molecular structure pictures and long chemical formulas; this book epitomizes progress and achievement. The chapter on the epidemiological impact of the use of the penicillins is, in itself, a most precise and clear picture, describing the potential of each of the penicillins in their broadest use, set against the major infections treatable by penicillin. This is jam on the postgraduate bread and butter.

Disease in infancy and childhood. Fifth edition. R. W. B. ELLIS, *O.B.E.*, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. and R. G. MITCHELL, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., D.C.H. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1965. Pp. vii + 712. Price 70s.

With the publication of this fifth edition Ellis's textbook becomes Ellis and Mitchell, the new co-author being Professor Mitchell, professor of child health in Aberdeen. The book retains its former layout, but it has been completely revised with much new material added to the sections on the newborn and disorders of metabolism; the therapeutics have also been brought up to date. The authors deal with their subject in general terms, thus a great deal of ground is covered but not in great detail. The changing pattern of paediatric practice is revealed in that neoplastic disease and trauma are on the increase, with infection becoming less important with the advent of antibiotics. It would also appear that the case study of chromosomes has explained several problems but not really solved them. Endocriology is also very much in evidence throughout the book. It is interesting too that an extra chapter has been devoted to tuberculosis, a disease which has been decreasing in Great Britain. The authors make no excuse for this, but point out that immigration can rapidly change disease patterns, and it should also be stated that the book is not entirely for use in Great Britain.

This book is, on the whole, well produced; there are many photographs, several in colour, x-ray plates, diagrams and tables. At the beginning of each chapter cross references to other parts of the book are given, and at the end a bibliography of the authors' sources of reference is given. It is a pity, therefore, that so many minor errors in the printing occur, such as on page 46 lines 19 and 31, page 55 line 31, and page 74 line 17, to mention just a few.

This is a good general textbook of paediatrics, worthy of a place on any general practitioner's bookshelf.