

Care of the newly born infant. Third edition. W. S. CRAIG, B.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.E., Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1966. Pp. viii+635. Price 55s.

This book is written by a team of paediatricians and paediatric nurses and covers every aspect of the care of the newborn infant. The opening chapter emphasizes the challenge of this field of medical care. Many advances have been made in recent years but there is still no room for complacency. The healthy infant is described and his care by midwife, nurse and doctor and the transfer of responsibility to mother and health visitor is outlined with a description of the many minor but important conditions which may be encountered. There follows a detailed and well-illustrated study of the effects of trauma during delivery, congenital abnormalities, prematurity in healthy and in abnormal babies, emergencies and their management and some selected nursing procedures. It is often said that before a book is published it is out of date, but there is much new material here for the general practitioner. The examination to exclude congenital dislocation of the hip, resuscitation of the newborn and current views on foetal haemorrhage, metabolic and chromosome abnormalities are a few examples.

This work is worth reading and then keeping for reference when normality has been questioned or when there is an obvious but unfamiliar abnormality.

Aspects of family mental health in Europe. World Health Organization. 1965. Public Health Papers No. 28. Pp. 123. Price 8s 6d.*

Much lip-service is paid, chiefly by ourselves, to the general practitioner's role as family physician. Nobody has yet examined the extent or quality of this part of our task—what we do for families which is extra to the tasks we do for their individual members. Would anything important be lost if we divided the family physician into four parts as Professor McKeown has proposed?

One of the areas in which it is most probable that the family benefits from having the same doctor for all its members is mental health. A book on family mental health, therefore, has a right to our attention. This one has eight short contributions from different European countries—three from our own. The majority originated in a conference in Athens in 1962. The most important of the eight—on family psychotherapy—comes from Czechoslovakia—full of valuable ideas and written in impeccable English.

The philosophy common to all the writers is that of the Paris School for Parents (this is the subject of one of the articles):

The school for parents found that education in psychology relating to the child alone caused the parents to concentrate exclusively upon the child in trying to understand the difficulties that confront them, whereas these difficulties are often due to the attitudes of the parents themselves. The school accordingly started to develop, as well, a specific parent psychology, and then merged both subjects in a psychology of the family regarded as a developing group. It endeavoured to accustom itself and gradually to accustom others to think of all family problems from the point of view of each of its members (father, mother, adolescent, young

*Obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office, P.O. Box 569, London, S.E.1.