

Handicapped children. Second edition. J. D. KERSHAW, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.P., D.P.H. London. William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1966. Pp. vii + 304. Price 32s.

This second edition of a valuable and well-known work has been brought up to date in those fields where additional knowledge or a change in attitude has enlarged the possibilities of effective action. It is a tribute to the original work that so little has had to be done in this regard.

The first nine chapters present the problems of the handicapped child in all their aspects—e.g. public attitudes, parental relationships, work, recreation and education etc., etc. The remainder study the various handicaps in detail and there are three useful appendices, especially that on the handicapped child and the law.

Its value can hardly be overstressed. First, as a work of reference for the enumeration and elucidation of the many handicaps which can impede a child it is unique. Secondly, the detailed information which is packed into a comparatively slender volume is so complete that an answer can be found to any conceivable problem that might perplex a medical or lay worker in the field, written as it is for both of these. Finally, the whole book is illuminated and enriched by a humanity and humility of approach which rewards for its own intrinsic worth. In a short notice it is difficult to convey the sense of knowledge of and dedication to the subject which pervades the text. But, as it is a book which should be read by all general practitioners, this omission will, it is hoped, be remedied by personal experience.

The social responsibility of gynaecology and obstetrics. Edited by ALLAN C. BARNES. Baltimore. John Hopkins Press. London. Oxford University Press. Pp. xiv + 210. Price 42s.

This book consists of papers presented at a conference held at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore in 1965. Among the authors, men and women, are professors of gynaecology and obstetrics, of preventive medicine, psychiatry, child psychiatry and public health administration, a social worker, a lawyer and the head of the Washington Population Reference Bureau. The editor, Professor Allan C. Barnes of the Johns Hopkins gynaecology and obstetric department, writes in the introduction of the intersection of two paths, that of his own medical discipline and "the pathway being followed by our society as it has addressed itself to examining the cause and cure of our threats and ills".

Each paper is relatively brief and presented in essay form with few tables and no sub-titles to interrupt the ease and interest of reading. In general the styles have the crystal clarity of academic authorship at its best in the U.S.A. There are no Americanisms, but probing sincerity of thought is evident in each, the legacy in that country of the earliest founders. "The time has come . . . to accept a concept which recognizes the right of the child to be well-born" (Louie Burnett, assistant professor in gynaecology and obstetrics, Johns Hopkins University) is blessedly free from the caveats which can bedevil such a statement, as also "When a