

**The doctor and the child welfare centre.** MEDICAL OFFICER, TUNBRIDGE WELLS. Hodgetts Limited. Pp. 35. Price 4s. 0d.

The purpose of this booklet is set out in the introduction in the following words:

"This booklet is produced in the hope that any doctor who is interested in child health and developmental paediatrics may learn from it something of the work of a child welfare centre, whether he works in a hospital, in general practice or with a local authority."

It describes in general terms the type of work that should be carried out, how it should be done and makes useful suggestions concerning premises and equipment. The importance of knowing the previous medical history and immunological state of the children is stressed. This is sensible and supports the idea of many general practitioners, that they themselves are the best people to carry out this type of work.

It is a little surprising to find that the health visitor is supposed to run the centre and be responsible for patient flow. Surely this work should be carried out by the secretarial or reception staff. This particular attitude illustrates one of the basic faults of the health service, that is in using people to carry out tasks for which their training does not necessarily fit them, and even worse, using them when they could be more profitably employed in the technical work for which they have been trained.

One of the most valuable sections of this booklet is the A.B.C. of useful information that covers not only child welfare but the whole range of the local authority health service and the social service of the country as a whole.

The booklet can be confidently recommended to any general practitioner wishing to set up his own infant welfare clinic and should be read by all doctors undertaking vocational training in general practice.

**Transactions of the International Chest and Heart Conference, 1967.** London. Chest and Heart Association. Pp. 219 + supplements. Price 42s. 0d.

The Chest and Heart Association had its origins as an association concerned with pulmonary tuberculosis, but with the control of tuberculosis it has broadened its interests to all chest and heart disorders. Part of its regular activities is to hold international conferences, and this is a collection of papers presented at one such conference in April 1967. There were 17 sessions during four days and the topics ranged widely and included fungal diseases of the lungs, prevention of tuberculosis, psychosomatic aspects of chest and heart disorders, cancer of the lung, coronary heart disease and hypertension, strokes, atmospheric pollution, rehabilitation and the role of local authorities in chest and heart diseases.

This report, in common with other reports of large conferences, has the drawback of being bitty and uneven, the material written by a large number of contributors and the quality variable. There are 80 papers in a little more than 300 pages and therefore they all are short and cannot possibly tackle important subjects adequately. It is pertinent to question the purpose of such a publication. Understandably it is of some use to those attending the conference but only as a reminder of what took place and not as a true record because questions and discussions are not included.

The list of the members of the Council of the Chest and Heart Association on the front page of this volume includes representatives from the specialties but not one general practitioner. Surely this is an error of omission that should be corrected. Chest and heart disorders account for a very high proportion of the