academic medical discipline in its own right and the medical schools must look again into their training programmes and see if they have got their priorities balanced. It is arguable whether this is an entirely suitable text for the undergraduate, but it is undoubtedly compulsory reading for the undergraduate teacher. It will certainly play a part in the training of the obstetrician, but it is in general practice that its main influence should be felt. The subject deserves at least as much attention in vocational training schemes, and in subsequent practice, as infant welfare and antenatal care and the College must ensure that the topic is adequately represented in its membership examination.

The last words should go to a quoted statement from the American Medical Association, "An intelligent recognition of the problems that relate to human reproduction, including the need for population control, is more than a matter of responsible parenthood. It is a matter of responsible medical practice".

Modern perspectives in international child psychiatry. Edited by JOHN G. HOWELLS, M.D., D.P.M. Edinburgh. Oliver & Boyd. 1969. Pp. 878. Price £8 8s. 0d.

This is the third volume of a series of five planned to cover the subject of psychiatry in world-wide scope. Authors are from both sides of the Atlantic, from Europe and Asia and from the further side of the Iron Curtain. There is risk that the scale can lead to reduction in value to the non-specialist reader. This has been largely avoided by each chapter being of the nature of a brief monograph, from 20 to barely 40 pages, usually with a brief introduction as to sources and opinions past and present. Each has a valuable bibliography and the whole is extensively indexed.

The book is divided into two main parts, the first entitled 'Psychopathology' and the second 'Clinical'. This division is somewhat arbitrary but it should add to ease of use both by the general reader and the expert. The place for this large volume is in the library of every postgraduate medical centre as far as the readership of this *Journal* is concerned. Quite apart from reference use the individual sections are usually of great interest to the general professional reader. For example D. H. Stott, professor at Guelph, Canada, writes on 'The child's hazards in utero' with recent facts and opinions on virology, drugs, maternal emotional and physical stresses and the uncertainty of associated methods and conclusions reached in research. 'Behaviour disorders', Stella Chess from New York University School of Medicine, is also concerned about the inadequacy of longitudinal studies. Other chapters may appeal to the reader because of their general application in family practice, such as 'Fathering' and 'Separation and deprivation' by the editor of this volume, John G. Howells who is director of family psychiatry, Ipswich. Others are of interest for their unfamiliar social cultures, as 'Child rearing in the Kibbutz', Louis Miller, director of mental health services, Jerusalem, and 'Family dynamics', Kyoshi Makila and Keigo, Keio University, Japan.

In the clinical section subject matter is related throughout to the practical relationship. 'Development and breakdown of speech', by Moyra Williams, principal psychologist at Addenbrooke's Hospital, 'Sleep disturbances in children', Merlitta Spesling, clinical professor of psychiatry, State University of New York, 'Dysfunctions of parenting', Richard Goldston, Harvard Medical School and Boston Children's Medical Centre are all practical in application. The last named chapter covers battering, neglect and exploitation. 'Residential care of children' by Sven Ahnsjö of Stockholm shares with our own country's workers among children concern for risks of large groupings and adverse institutional results. Others such as 'The nature of child psychosis', Lauretta Bender, director of the children's unit, Creedmore State Hospital, New York, are unduly American in idiom and content to be of easy use to the average reader in this country. Something of the same drawback attaches to 'The child at school', John C. Glidewell who is professor of educational psychology, University of Chicago.

This brief selection of titles and authors is made to tempt the browsing reader as well as the expert seeker. The short life of the discipline of child psychiatry is apparent throughout. Scarcely formulated at the beginning of this century it has developed with great rapidity over little more than a generation. Its importance, not only in mental illness, but for understanding maturity in adult life is amply illustrated in this book with a splendid wealth of material.

Cytotoxic drugs in the treatment of cancer. E. BOESEN, M.B., B.S., and W. DAVIS, Ph.D. London. Edward Arnold Ltd. 1969. Pp. ix= 208. Price £3 0s. 0d.

This book has been designed for the use of the physician who may be called upon to use cytotoxic agents in the treatment of cancer, and therefore the contents, being of a specialized nature, are not of direct interest to the general practitioner. The book aims to explain the chemical and biochemical background of the different drug-group actions and to assess the potentialities and limitations of each of these drug groups. The indications, side-effects and possible counter-measures required in respect of the different cytotoxic drugs are described and their use in the varied forms of cancer given in some detail.

The arrangement of the book is very good and although a highly specialized subject, the content is well written and accordingly easy to read.

For the general practitioner, the value of this book lies in the fact that it affords an up-to-date source of reference. For example, the family