

in the same way as there is on methods of physical treatment.

Nevertheless this edition of the book will maintain the tradition. It will remain a favourite amongst students and practitioners and can be thoroughly recommended. I will have my copy placed on the bookshelves of our library in the Postgraduate Medical Centre because embryo consultants as well as embryo general practitioners would do well to read it.

Essentials of human embryology. Second edition. FRANK D. ALLAN, M.S., Ph.D. London. Oxford University Press. 1969. Pp 344. Price £3 0s. 0d.

Those of us who have the privilege of doing normal and abnormal midwifery, often find that we reach out for a book on embryology. We do this partly because it seems natural to trace the foetus to its earliest stages of development, when environmental or hereditary factors have terminated a pregnancy by miscarriage, but even more when nature has delivered our patient at full term and we realize to our dismay that there is an abnormality in the child for which, as general practitioners, we shall have to care over months or years of handicap.

Dr Allan's book was first published in 1960, and the present volume, well produced and printed in America, gives a fully-illustrated and up-to-date paper-covered volume at a moderate price. Dr Allan unfolds for us the mysteries of the normal foetal development, and deals clearly with the common congenital abnormalities of the various systems. The book is dedicated "To belaboured students and their hard-pressed instructors", and, in both rôles, senior members of the College will consult this excellent text as they discuss with their younger trainee colleagues the practical aspects of childbirth and of child care. The environmental production of foetal abnormalities by agents such as the rubella virus shows the necessity of the understanding of such factors by doctors who may not actually undertake midwifery. Dr Allan's description of genetically-conditioned chromosomal faults, and the chemically-induced fragmentation of chromosomes by caffeine and by LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide), brings the scrutiny of the prenatal environment vividly before every physician. There are 23 sections that range from a short historical survey to a generously-illustrated consideration of each organ system, both in its normal and abnormal development. Spaced serial-sections of human embryos occupy

figures 131 to 173, and for research workers there is a short section on dissection of the human foetus.

This second edition incorporates the new material regarding human prenatal life that has resulted from the recent increase in accessibility of embryonic and foetal material. It comes at a moment when general practitioners are finding increasing scope in obstetric practice, and this advanced text will be widely used and will form a valuable reference book.

Common symptoms of disease in children. Second edition. R. S. ILLINGWORTH, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.C.H. Oxford and Edinburgh. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1969. Pp. x+297. Price 42s. 0d. (£2.10).

The first edition of this book appeared in May 1967, and now, only 18 months later, it has appeared in its second edition, this surely has confirmed the enthusiasm with which that first edition was received. The general concept of the book remains the same, that is, a precis of common symptoms of diseases of children, aimed mainly at the family doctor but of use to both undergraduate and some postgraduate students.

This new second edition represents a complete revision of the first, with many new additions both to the text and to the list of references. New sections have been included on gynaecomastia, difficulties in sucking and swallowing, undue irritability, loss of hair, hypertrichosis, dryness of the mouth, stomatitis and gingivitis, missing teeth and delayed dentition, toe walking, encopresis, confusion and hallucinations, paraesthesiae and dysarthria. The important section on the side effects of drugs has been expanded to include new discoveries and revelations. The index to the first edition has been found to be deficient and so this has been expanded and improved.

This book remains an excellent, indeed an improved buy for the family doctor. It is concise, being written largely in note form, it must be remembered however that it is only an aid to diagnosis and investigation, not a complete text-book of paediatrics.

BOOKS RECEIVED

The organization and administration of maternal and child health services. World Health Organization Technical Report Series No. 428. Geneva. World Health Organization. 1969. Pp. 34. Price 6s. 0d.