

management. Mr J. D. Stewart, in chapter three, warns us against the dangers of being overcomplacent about our present organization and of making changes based on intuition rather than by analysis of the problem. To single-handed practitioners it may be of comfort to know that in chapter two Mr Cherrington says that "anyone who has at least one person under his control is a manager". Reading the chapter on management technique I was encouraged every so often by being able to say "we do that in my practice". Equally often I was jolted into thinking "why didn't we do that".

In chapter four Dr Benjamin says "But there is a slightly grim side. Modern management techniques form a bandwagon which is being climbed on by the fast-talkers as well as the real-doers and their claims have to be challenged, from a practical standpoint, at every step if resources are not to be fritted away". This quotation should assure us of the honesty of this book and remind us of the dangers of being non-managers. If we can't beat them then we should join them, or at least read this book and understand their ethos.

Child life and health. Fifth edition. ROSS G. MITCHELL, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.C.H. London. J. & A. Churchill. Pp. vi + 588. Price £6.00.

Ellis' *Child Health and Development* first appeared in 1947 and rapidly established itself as a standard paediatric textbook. It was one of the first, if not the first, textbooks to concentrate on the development of the child.

In the succeeding 24 years paediatrics has become child health. Professor Ellis has had to retire from the editorship and another Scottish professor of paediatrics—R. G. Mitchell of Aberdeen—has taken his place. The book, too, has changed its title—adopting that of the department of the former editor in Edinburgh: 'Child Life and Health'.

It is almost impossible to fault the book for content. It accomplishes all it sets out to achieve. The development from the pre-natal period to early adolescence is taken in great detail in the first half of the book. The second half is devoted to the social aspects of paediatrics, including chapters on emotional and mental problems.

This book would be of great value to any general practitioner interested in child health. In group practices, where one or more partners do the well-baby clinic, this might be an appropriate gift for a special occasion. It is a pity it costs £6.00 and is so turgidly printed.

Infant feeding. MAVIS GUNTHER, M.A., M.D. London. Methner & Co. Ltd. 1970. Pp. xiv + 114. Price £1.25.

The author, physician and mother, has received grants from the Medical Research Council for her work in the obstetric and paediatric departments at University College Hospital. She began her

research work on diverse aspects of infant feeding 35 years ago.

This short book is blessedly clear in expression and in guidance without being arbitrary in instruction. Its clarity is rooted in physiological and humane understanding. Katharine Whitehorn's introduction thanks the author "not only for getting my baby *on* the breast but for the kindness and commonsense with which she got a friend of mine's *off* it. She did it with words that anyone in this field would do well to remember that the first principle of infant feeding is after all to feed the infant".

The advantages of breast feeding to mother and child are set out briefly and definitely. The strength of instinct in the nursing couple and the risks to success from fear and anxiety at an emotionally critical phase of their lives are translated into confidence from the proper positioning of the sucking baby from the start. Timing and quantity are relegated with other secondary matters to their appropriate place as routine is established. Antenatal care of the nipples is well emphasized.

A wise chapter on the introduction of other foods is in the second half of the book. The chapter on difficulties in breast feeding is remarkable in its combination of medical principles with a cool human and nutritional approach. Apart from personal experience of breast feeding one's own baby this short book will save many family doctors almost as much anxiety as the newly-delivered mothers on his list. It should enhance the self respect of both whatever the programme decided upon.

Appropriate to the double readership the index is brief and the list of references is wide in range.

Scientific aspects of psychological medicine.

R. R. TILLIARD-COLE, M.A., B.M., B.Ch., D.P.M. and JOHN MARKS, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P., F.C., PATH. London. Roche Products Limited. 1971. Pp. 1+132.

Dictionary of abbreviations in medicine and the related sciences. Third edition. EDWIN B. STEEN, PH.D. London. Bailliere, Tindall and Cassell Ltd. 1971. Pp. 1+102. Price £1.25.

This dictionary is now in its third edition, so some people do want to know about abbreviations. In our opinion the acquisition of such knowledge is fatuous; its display is ill-bred and discourteous. Sometimes their use is inevitable, but very rarely. There is some danger that in publishing a dictionary of this kind the authority of print will be bestowed upon the abbreviations listed. To take an example: AV is given as meaning:—anteversion, aortic valve, arteriovenous, artioventricular and auriculoventricular,—Do cardiologists really lay themselves open to such confusion? The letter F in capitals and in lower case covers nearly all uses of the words so beginning: amongst others, it may stand for 'free' and this meaning is immediately followed by 'French (catheter size)', 'father',