

result of toxæmia. The results are good but, as the author indicates, the method requires testing over a much larger series of unselected cases.

The material is well presented, 34 references are given, most of them recent, and there is an adequate index.

**Antibiotics in Medicine.** *British Medical Bulletin*, vol. 16, No. 1 (Jan. 1960); The British Council, London. pp. 88. Price 20/-.

This issue of the *Bulletin* is a symposium of papers on antibiotics, their chemistry, pharmacology, use and abuse, and other aspects. The scientific editor, Professor L. P. Garrod, comments that would-be authors of books on this subject must be daunted by the fact that anything which takes a long time to write and to print is likely to be out of date before it is published; hence the dearth of books in the field. The *Bulletin* to a large extent makes up for this.

A deep understanding of practical difficulties is shown throughout. Antibiotics “. . . have forced clinicians to think in bacteriological terms, and those who have best adapted their way of thinking have been the most successful in the use of these drugs.” Again “It is usually held that economic considerations should not be allowed to influence the practice of medicine, but a situation may well arise, if indeed it has not already arisen, in which they must.” And a third worthwhile quotation, from many others possible.

#### “ 1. Tactics

*Selecting the best combination*—Exclude from first consideration all fixed-dose mixtures. None is suitable for routine use, because the timing and doses suitable for one organism in one person are seldom those of choice for another person or another organism. They are more costly, confuse terminology and aggravate the difficulties of assessment and determining the cause of side-effects. But the most important reason for avoiding them is that their use strongly tends to inhibit thought and the development of a rationale and hence the only safeguard of sanity in this field.”

The *Bulletin* is a most valuable 20 shillings worth.

**Paediatric Tutorials.** The Newly Born Infant. ANDREW BOGDAN, M.D., M.R.C.P.E., D.C.H. Leeds: Privately printed, 1959. Pp. 38. Price 3s.

This paper-covered booklet is designed to give students a minimal background of neonatal paediatrics. A skeleton of the subject is provided on the left hand pages, and the right hand pages are left blank for the student to clothe with his own notes or for teachers to plan their own tutorials.

Practitioners may well wish that they had had such a painless introduction to the diseases of babies, but, perhaps, if they teach students, some of their own hard won experience may be immortalized on the right-hand pages.