

normal development, and pass on to details of how to examine affected children. Recording methods are discussed, including the use of motion pictures, and treatment by speech therapists, occupational therapists and physiotherapists placed in perspective. A classification of cerebral palsies is given, with chapters on etiology and pathology, special types of palsy, kernicterus, and special features such as epilepsy. Then follows a section on prognosis, treatment and education, and the study is completed by an estimate of emotional changes, and the effect on family life.

An important lesson derived from the study is that the nub of the problem lies in the patient's attempts to gain independence. The authors conclude that too intensive treatment will cause "docility" in the patient, rather than attempts to gain that independence which is the true aim of development.

The book is adequately produced, the style clearer than is usual in American textbooks, and the price reasonable.

The Merck Index of Chemicals and Drugs. Published by Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, N.J., U.S.A. Seventh edition, 1960. Pp. v. + 1,641. Price \$12.00.

Many will already be familiar with *The Merck Index*. This edition has been greatly enlarged with a great deal of new material. The doctor who wishes to find out something of the many new compounds which are now flooding the market will welcome this encyclopaedia. Useful pages for the general practitioner are those which deal with poisons, those which tabulate the medical isotopes and give quick reference to their half-lives, and those containing the explanation of the many "named" organic reactions. This work will be a useful aid to understanding many of the obscurities in modern pharmacological literature.

The Surgeon's Tale. ROBERT G. RICHARDSON. London. George Allen & Unwin Ltd. Pp. xi + 256. Price 25s.

This is a history of surgery during the last hundred years. It is written primarily for the layman. A few short years ago it would have been far too complicated a story to be followed by those without medical training, but today, such is the interest in all that appertains to the "healing knife", and so thorough has been the indoctrination by television and the press, that it may be assured of well deserved success, for this book is well written and easy to read. To medical students it should prove a boon, and at least one elderly general practitioner has found it most instructive.