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## BOOK REVIEW

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### THE FIRST YEAR OF LIFE

Ed. H. B. Valman

British Medical Association  
London (1980)

81 pages. Price £5.00

Paediatrics is a major component of modern general practice and the care of children in the first year of life is perhaps one of the most worrying periods of child care for the family doctor.

The recent series in the *British Medical Journal*, edited by Bernard Valman, has been well received, and it is helpful to find the articles bound in one volume.

Each chapter is fairly brief and complete in itself. Topics range from amniotic fluid investigations, resuscitation of the newborn and infants of low birth weight to crying babies, contraindications to immunizations and health services for children. In addition, there are half-page summaries about topics

such as cot deaths, watering eye, equipment needed for examining children, nonaccidental injury, and how to examine a sick child.

The text is supported by a considerable number of diagrams and photographs, albeit in black and white for reasons of cost.

I have found this book extremely useful and so have some trainees to whom I have shown it.

STUART CARNE

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## OBITUARY

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### Dr Edward Joffe, MB, CH.B, MRCP

DR Edward Joffe, who was a general practitioner, died on 17 October at his home, 10 Dunkirk Drive, Whitby, Ellesmere Port.

Born in Walthamstow, London, on 16 May 1902, he emigrated to South Africa when he was 13 years old. He was educated at the Christian Brothers College in Kimberley. After leaving school he went into the banking business but realized he had a vocation in medicine and entered the Medical School in Pretoria University, where he spent his first two years. His father decided that he should have a better medical education and sent him to Edinburgh. Following qualification in 1929 he married, held many resident hospital appointments, followed by locums in general practice, joined a practice in Oldhill, Worcester, as an assistant, where he remained for three years, and finally joined Dr Wilkinson in partnership in Smethwick.

When war broke out in 1939 he volunteered for the RAMC, where he saw active service in Burma and India; he was invalided out of the Army in 1944 and returned to his former practice in Smethwick. Due to ill health he returned to South Africa, doing locum duties for the South African Government in Basutoland. At the beginning of the National Health Service in 1948 he joined Dr G. Bradbury (who was a medical student with him in Edinburgh) in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire. He retired in 1967, and then took a part-time appointment as Medical Officer in geriatrics at the West Cheshire Hospital until ill health forced him to retire at the age of 73. He was a founder member of the College and a member of the BMA, being a regular attender at local meetings.

He was always interested in the welfare of the youngsters of Ellesmere Port and, as a symbol of dedication and perseverance, was a founder member of the Ellesmere Port Boys Club. For over two decades he stood as the main driving force of the Club, piloting it from its inception through difficult and challenging times, but his objective always remained to provide the boys of Ellesmere Port with purpose-built premises. His dream finally became a reality when the Club was opened by Lord Althorp, at that time Chairman of the National Association of Boys Clubs. He remained Chairman for more than 20 years and resigned only when the Club was firmly established, making a vital contribution to the welfare of youngsters for whom he always had a deep affection.

He will be remembered above all as a dedicated family doctor, fully respecting the dignity of man and conscious of the basic ethical code in his relationship with his patients. Medicine was Ted's beginning and his end. Whenever the opportunity occurred to attend a lecture Ted was always there. He had a very high clinical standard; his physical examination was gentle and thorough.

His terminal illness was painful, protracted and distressing, but he endured his suffering with courage and fortitude. He is survived by his devoted wife, Meg, who does not enjoy the best of health, but was a constant support throughout his career. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary last July.

He will be remembered with admiration and affection by a great many patients and colleagues. Those of us who knew Ted will miss him, but many of the youth of Ellesmere Port Boys Club who have now grown up owe him a great debt of gratitude.