

dence published by Oxford Medical Publications in 1910, he says:

"I find amongst my notes (page 664), 39 cases of whom 31 were girls. Five of these 39 cases were brought for this habit when under the age of 12 months, and six in the second year; the youngest was eight months old when brought . . ." He continues, ". . . the manifestations of this habit are so often unrecognized by medical men. . . ."

We do get asked about these problems in family practice, and I wonder why "masturbation in children" was not included in the chapter "Everyday Questions". It is important to discredit the old wives' stories about the awful disasters and consequences and which make children and parents ill with worry and anxiety.

I asked my colleague in general practice to read this book. She says:

". . . as a recently-qualified doctor who has just entered general practice, I found this book most informative and pleasant to read. The usual everyday questions asked by mothers and their answers, which are not taught to the medical student, are most clearly dealt with in this book. I would certainly recommend this book for anyone entering general practice."

This book which is thoroughly excellent should be read by everyone who may be called upon to give an opinion on the health and development of infants and young children.

The book is retailed at 50s. In spite of its excellence, it is a lot of money for those of us who cannot resist buying rather than borrowing a book. Isn't it time that medical publishers considered the issue of paper back editions? I would buy many copies for my younger (and older) colleagues.

Growth and Development in Childhood. ANDREW BOGDAN, M.D., M.R.C.P.E., D.C.H. Published for the author by Anstick's Medical Bookshop. Leeds. 1962. Pp. i + 21. Price 3s. 6d.

This is the third of the paediatric series of these publications, which are designed to guide the student in his studies. The paper-covered booklet contains the text on the left-hand pages and the right-hand pages are available for notes.

Dr Bogdan has found this a valuable system when teaching his students, and others may well do so. There are useful tables of developmental milestones and height-weight tables.

The Development of the Infant and Young Child. R. S. ILLINGWORTH, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.C.H. Second edition. London and Edinburgh. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963. Pp. iii + 357. Price 30s.

As a revised edition of this book has been necessary within three years of its first appearance we get some idea of the many advances in the subject matter.

Professor Illingworth has written much elsewhere on the subject in as far as it affects the general practitioner or paediatrician, with extreme clarity. The layout is excellent with many photographs and diagrams.

Relevant case material from the author's own clinic is used to illustrate the complex nature of problems in this field. A chapter on the basic techniques used in examining children is particularly to be noted, as well as a rewritten chapter describing mistakes that can be made in the assessment of a young child's development.

Parents these days take an especial interest in the development of their own children and expect assistance from the family doctor. This book has no rival for a place on our shelves and is most reasonably priced.

The Normal and Abnormal Unipolar Electrocardiogram in Infants and Children. R. H. WASSERBURGER, M.D., Baltimore. The Williams and Wilkins Company. 1963. Pp. ix + 154. Price 76s.

The first half of this book is an analysis of electrocardiographic data on 1,150 infants and children from birth to the age of 14 years. 259,915 individual measurements were made, providing, in the author's words, a veritable statistical "Garden of Eden". It is a complete description of the gradual changes which occur until the adult electrocardiographic patterns are assumed . . . that is, until the infantile right ventricular dominance is replaced by the normal adult left ventricular dominance. Without such a standard of normality it is difficult to interpret the abnormal electrocardiogram in children.

The second half of the book is a description of abnormal electrocardiograms in children, and examples of every kind of abnormality are shown and analysed. Most of the electrocardiograms are made with an Elema electrocardiograph and these are difficult to reproduce; one has the impression, perhaps wrongly, that many have been filled in with black ink by hand. Otherwise, the book is well produced and although there is no index individual items are not difficult to find. It is primarily designed for the consultant cardiologist or paediatrician but any doctor who does his own electrocardiography will find it useful. It is a book which may become a standard work of reference.

Electrocardiography. RICHARD W. D. TURNER, O.B.E., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.P.E. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963. Pp. viii + 155. Price 20s.

This small book is a reprint, with an additional chapter, of a series of articles originally published in *The Practitioner* during 1962. Dr Turner makes it clear in his introduction that he has definite reservations about general practitioners undertaking electrocardiography, but has nevertheless gone on to produce a work which should be of considerable value to the growing number of general practitioners who do so.

Despite its small size there are no major omissions, and the commoner and more important abnormalities are described in great detail with clear explanations of the genesis of the relevant cardiographs. The wide range of normality and the inherent limitations of electrocardiography are stressed, and there is a strong clinical bias throughout—especially apparent