

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

in an excellent chapter entitled "Heart Attacks".

There are some 250 illustrative electrocardiograms (unfortunately not all labelled as to leads), and a number of diagrams, clarifying such mysteries as axis deviation and bundle-branch block amongst others.

This book goes a long way towards simplifying what has become a very complex subject and can be strongly recommended.

Electrical and Drug Treatment in Psychiatry. A. SPENCER PATERSON, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., M.R.C.P. Amsterdam, London and New York. Elsevier Publishing Company. 1963. Pp. v+248 Price 110s.

This book is written with thought based on experience; it is concerned with advances in physical treatment of mental illness since the institution of electrical shock therapy in 1938, but excluding brain surgery. The drugs considered are the spate of new chemicals introduced in the past eleven years—i.e., the barbiturates are not discussed. There are five appendices describing 39 of these new drugs, loosely inserted in a folder at the end of the book. This makes it possible easily to refer to the structure and action of these drugs while reading the text; also it may allow for additions and deletions in subsequent editions.

A great deal of first hand experience has gone into the book, particularly concerning the technique of giving E.C.T. and the use of perphenazine (Fentazin), of which the author has best experience, but the other drugs are treated as comprehensively as our present knowledge permits.

No doubt the improved effectiveness of these treatments has contributed largely to the improved outlook for the psychotic patient, and the more humane and tolerant attitude to insanity shown by the community. To a less degree drugs have been helpful in managing the neuroses and facilitating psychotherapy. But the conscientious reader of the book must reflect on the powers of these treatments for harm as well as good, and hesitate to use them without serious consideration. Sometimes, of course, the illness is so severe as to make the taking of risks justifiable. Dr Spencer Paterson puts the pros and cons fairly, and his book has much of interest for the family doctor, though because of its detail it is primarily for the specialist.

The book is well produced, but the proof-reader has allowed a few minor textual inaccuracies to escape him.

Probation and Mental Treatment. MAX GRÜN HUT, M.A., DR. JUR. London. Tavistock Publications. 1963. Pp. vii + 56. Price 15s.

The Criminal Justice Act of 1948 included a section which provided that offenders might be put on probation with a requirement that they submit to mental treatment for a period not longer than a year. This book is a short and lucid attempt to review what happens to those offenders considered suitable for this course of action. These fall mainly into three