

This volume abstracts the literature on drug therapy published during the year under review. It is divided into two portions: the first, entitled "Drug Therapy," gives the therapeutic and prophylactic uses to which drugs have been put during the year; the second, entitled "Precautions," supplies in quickly readable form the toxic actualities and potentialities of drugs in current use. Not all available drugs are discussed in the latter section, which is perhaps not surprising, as the *American Drug Index* for 1962 requires 831 closely packed pages merely to list them, but few important ones are omitted.

The editor has been successful in describing in concise and simple language the essential features of each piece of work reviewed. The abstracts are almost entirely confined to the medical literature of the English-speaking world, with American literature, perhaps rightly, receiving pride of place by a long way. Nevertheless, a précis has been made of nearly 500 articles by some 900 authors from over 100 journals. As the editor must have perused and discarded many more papers as being of little worth one is left astounded by his industry.

DERRICK DUNLOP.

### INFANT DEVELOPMENT

*The Development of the Infant and Young Child.* By R. S. Illingworth, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.C.H. Second edition. (Pp. 363+viii; illustrated. 30s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963.

That a second edition of this book should be called for within three years of its first appearance is a well-earned tribute to its popularity. Though in general the contents follow the pattern of the first edition there have been some changes, some pruning, more references, and further excellent photographs, of which there are now 123. The chapters on the neurological examination of the newborn and the normal newborn have been written jointly by Professor Illingworth and Dr. K. S. Holt.

The book is so good that it may seem ungenerous to criticize. It is a book to have and to read and read again, for it contains much vital information compactly and lucidly expressed. Yet in the middle of it is a chapter, occupying nearly one-eighth of the book, which is devoted to an esoteric collection of rarities that seems out of tune—and certainly out of proportion—with the subject as a whole. Logically, every physical defect and disease which may affect mental development should have been included, but, as Professor Illingworth says, this would be impossible. On what basis was this particular selection made? Many of the diseases discussed refer to but three or four cases—or even to a single case. How often do we see Seitelberger's syndrome, spastic quadriplegia with congenital ichthyosiform erythroderma, anosmia, Cockayne's syndrome, or Halleorden-Spatz syndrome (to quote but a few)? These are reminiscent of Parkes Weber's "Further Rare Disorders"; they are not typical of Illingworth.

When the next edition appears it is to be hoped that this chapter will be replaced by more Illingworth, or, if not, that it will be transposed to an appendix. But then it would come as an anticlimax to the splendid last chapter on "Mistakes and Pitfalls in Developmental Diagnosis." This is a "must."

This edition is as well produced, as clearly printed, and as free from errors as was the first. That the additional 45 pages, including the 28 new illustrations, have only increased the cost by 2s. 6d. is a considerable achievement on the part of the publishers and there can be few volumes to-day that provide better value for 30s.

WILFRID GAISFORD.

### PARALYTIC POLIO AND AFTER

*The Recovery from Poliomyelitis. A Study of the Convalescent Phase.* By Martin Singer, M.B., Ch.B.(Capetown), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), and Peter Rose-Innes, M.B., Ch.B.(Capetown). (Pp. 106 +viii; illustrated; 25s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963.

The behaviour of the spinal cord, peripheral nerves, and muscles after acute paralytic poliomyelitis presents a number of problems which must be studied by those who treat the disease. The writers of this book were closely concerned with an epidemic of poliomyelitis which occurred in South Africa in 1956–7, and which affected the African, the coloured, and the European population. There were many paralytic cases, especially in young children.

The early chapters contain an excellent and clearly presented summary of existing knowledge regarding the responses and reactions of the nervous system and muscles to the paralytic form of the disease, but the special purpose of the book is to give an account of the way in which treatment was organized for 163 children and to attempt to record the pattern and degree of recovery. The methods used to study progress were simple but will be of great help to anyone having to deal with a similar epidemic. The mean age of the patients was only 30 months, and as the mean duration of observation was only 8.3 months from the onset the late problems of infantile poliomyelitis are not really considered. Indeed there seems to be some lack of appreciation of the very prolonged supervision that is required if spinal and other deformities in late childhood are to be minimized. Thus the group of six cases described on p. 92 with "scoliosis, not requiring a brace and not progressing" will arouse some scepticism. Modern neurophysiological methods were not available for these studies and yet they form a record of great value to the clinician, who will, as always, learn much from the record of a job well done.

W. RITCHIE RUSSELL.

### BOOKS RECEIVED

*Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.*

*A Textbook of Surgical Pathology. 9th Edition.* By Sir Charles Illingworth and Bruce M. Dick. (Pp. 696+viii; illustrated; 90s.) London: J. and A. Churchill Ltd. 1963.

*The Epidemiology of Chronic Rheumatism. Volume I.* Edited by J. H. Kellgren and M. R. Jeffrey and J. Ball. (Pp. 356+xix; illustrated. 60s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1963.

*The Epidemiology of Chronic Rheumatism. Volume II.* (Pp. 44 +x; illustrated. 25s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1963.

*Infection in Hospitals.* Edited by R. E. O. Williams and R. A. Shooter. (Pp. 355+xviii; illustrated. 52s. 6d.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1963.

*Studies on the Electrocardiogram of the Racehorse.* By J. D. Steel, B.V.Sc. (Pp. 48.) Glebe, Sydney: Australasian Medical Publishing Company Limited. 1963.

*The Postnatal Development of the Human Cerebral Cortex. Volume VII.* By J. LeRoy Conel. (Pp. 303+xcvii; illustrated. 120s.) Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press. 1963.

*Clinical Problems in Children of Primary School Age. The Proceedings of the 19th Child Guidance Inter-Clinic Conference.* (Pp. 40.) London: National Association for Mental Health. 1963.

*British Pharmaceutical Codex 1963.* (Pp. 1,433+xxxvi; illustrated; £5 5s.) London: The Pharmaceutical Press. 1963.

*Man's Anatomy, Physiology and Health.* By Nancy Roper. (Pp. 458+xii; illustrated. 25s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963.

*A Cottage Hospital Grows Up.* By E. J. Dennison. (Pp. 224; illustrated. 30s.) London: Anthony Blond Limited. 1963.