Buchbesprechungen


This volume contains the proceedings of a postgraduate medical course which was held in the Department for Clinical Endocrinology and Diseases of Metabolism in Leiden, Netherlands. This course covered a big field. The lectures should show how a child grows and the reasons for ‘correct’ growth. Then there are chapters about abnormal growth, about treatment of abnormal growth and how the effects of the treatment can be evaluated, methods of measuring are also indicated. Some types of abnormal growth are specifically mentioned such as renal disease, rickets, mental deficiency, congenital adrenal hyperplasia. Interesting remarks are made about the so-called growth promoting factors and their evaluation.

The book is certainly interesting, the lectures are well chosen and clearly written.

R. Salberg, Basel


This volume is the first one in German language to discuss systematically urological affections of infancy and childhood. The author tries to show that diseases of the urinary tract in childhood may function as causes for urological troubles in a later age group. Therefore pediatric urology has, besides its therapeutic, certainly also a preventive character.

Large space is dedicated to modern diagnostic methods and technics. Descriptions of therapeutic measures complete this valuable book. A rather up-to-date bibliography closes the volume. The price is inexpensive.


This volume is based on the author’s experience gained during twenty years at the Royal Maternity Hospital at Copenhagen. It deals with many aspects of the pregnant diabetic woman and her newborn child. In a special chapter the author discusses problems of carbohydrate metabolism in normal pregnancy and the influence of pregnancy on diabetes. Pregnancy complications such as toxemia, hydranmnios, nephropathy etc. are mentioned. The second part describes the diabetic consequences on the fetus and newborn: lipid and protein metabolism, renal and lung function and many other details. Fetal mortality, management of diabetic pregnancy, screening procedures complete this book which is an excellent guide for obstetricians and pediatricians.


In the past years unexpected progress has been made in the field of biochemical genetics and has permitted, in many cases, a logical approach to the various inborn errors of metabolism in man.
The part I of the two volumes contains many aspects of most inborn errors of metabolism. It does not want to be a survey, its bibliographic lists contain all the important reviews interesting to those who want to study more about certain fields. However, it is an excellent help to the general practitioner and the hospital staff when they are faced with a patient with a hereditary disease. Volume II serves as an appendix, it contains all the necessary and available laboratory procedures in order to establish an exact diagnosis.

This is the second edition of the book which first appeared in 1959. It has been thoroughly rewritten and revised. It contains now more theoretical information about DNA, RNA and coding, furthermore about normal biochemical variations and newer advances in biochemical methodology.

The two volumes are highly recommendable to all those faced and interested with and in patients with hereditary diseases and conditions. The price is low.

R. Salerg, Basel


This is one of the first books to appear in German language about the large and actual field of myopathies. It contains papers and discussions held at a symposium in Freiburg/ Germany in 1964. Various authors contributed competent and interesting papers concerning genetic, biochemical, pathological, clinical and therapeutical details of many myopathic disorders. The different types of myopathies are discussed, especially in view of the newer results in enzyme determinations and electron microscopy. The symposium ends with remarks about social implications of myopathies and rehabilitation of sick and convalescent patients.

The volume contains very interesting and exact information for all those studying myopathies, as well in the laboratory as in medical practice.


In March 1968 the first European Congress for perinatal medicine was held in Berlin, Germany; the presence of 1,200 physicians from all over the world shows the great interest that this field of medicine has awakened in the past years and especially since the publication of this excellent volume. Much progress in perinatal medicine and in the reduction of perinatal mortality has already been made. Many important methods are shown and discussed. Amniocytography, amniocentesis, chemical analysis of fetal blood specimens are clearly explained. Physiology and pathophysiology of the perinatal period are correlated with biochemical values and defined in a simple and comprehensive manner. In the last part the author gives a good survey of reanimation of the newborn.

This book can heartily be recommended to all those handling newborns and faced with the risks and dangers of this period of life.

A. McDonald: Children of very Low Birth Weight. Heinemann, London 1967. 126 p. Price: 25 s. This book is the first in a series of research monographs, all conducted in the field of developmental medicine and child neurology.
The reason for this study was to look for causal factors for cerebral palsy in children of very low birth weight, to state clearly the fact that the rate of survival of these small babies has steadily increased, and to examine their later prospects especially in regard to their intellectual development.

The investigations in this volume were carried out on more than 1,000 children with a birth weight of less than 1800 g. The cases were followed up meticulously. The author describes all the defects he found, furthermore exact measurements of visual and hearing capacity and of intelligence. The conclusions of this valuable study will certainly interest all those handling pregnant women and small babies.


This is the third volume in the Saunders series ‘Major problems in Pediatrics’. In the past thirty years much progress has been made in the understanding of the genetics, biochemistry, physiology and clinical findings of carbohydrate metabolism disorders. New diseases have been found which were extremely stimulating for further research.

Two eminent authors have written this monograph about normal and abnormal carbohydrate metabolism. After a basic introduction about carbohydrate metabolism in pregnancy and in the neonate, its problems in the new-born period are discussed. Much space is given to hereditary metabolic disorders and to hypoglycemic and sugar malabsorption syndromes in infancy and adolescence. Tables about different diets and carbohydrate contents of foods close the book. The text is excellent and comprehensive, the tables facilitate the understanding of the sometimes rather complicated matter. The authors can be congratulated for their fine work.


This volume, sponsored by the British Foundation for Research into the prevention of Blindness is a major study of human genetics as well as of human blindness. It tells the results of a study conducted in nearly one fourth of the totally or partially blind children in Great Britain. Clinical examinations are supplemented by laboratory investigations, along with correspondence with the families of the patients. In each case the authors tried to establish the cause for the child’s blindness. Statistical analysis tries to define the role of heredity in all patients. The important works of literature are mentioned in each chapter reviewing every cause of blindness. The findings are compared with results of previous studies. Some ways are indicated in which blindness could be prevented.

As blindness is one of the severest disabilities from which children can suffer the scientific study of its causes is very urgent. This work seems to be of considerable value to pediatricians, ophthalmologists and to all those interested in human genetics.

Feer/Joppich: Lehrbuch der Kinderheilkunde.


This new edition of the textbook which appeared for the first time 50 years ago has been rewritten and revised especially for the purpose of medical students and young assistants in the medical staff of pediatric clinics. New co-authors have been found, and their aim has been to
show the clinical details of pediatrics to young physicians without giving them too many scientific or laboratory data.

The book can be recommended to students, it may be a little bit too short for pediatricians inasmuch as it is lacking bibliographic indices and therefore the reader has to depend on the author only. The price is inexpensive.

The eye is of especially great interest to the pediatrician because it enables him sometimes to detect diseases elsewhere in the body, it gives him clues to the presence of systemic disorders and eventually congenital anomalies. Additionally, the eye gains increasing importance in the field of fetal infections and intoxications and in inherited disorders.

It is very important for the pediatrician and also for the general practitioner to recognize the abnormal eye early, and after that to ask for the help of a trained ophthalmologist. The different chapters of this book give a wonderful survey about all the pathologic conditions that the practising pediatrician could be faced with and help him to establish the diagnosis ‘not normal’.

The contents show a wide field: it goes from the normal anatomy and the methods of examination to all major pathologic conditions of the eye. It finishes with a chapter about genetic applications to pediatric ophthalmology.

The book can be warmly recommended to everybody treating sick infants and children.

R. Salzberg, Basel


This brochure will certainly be very interesting for all those concerned with anaesthesia in infants and children, but also to pediatricians and pediatric surgeons. The main problem is control the effects of the muscle relaxant drugs used in anaesthesia. Different methods and techniques are mentioned with which different respiratory qualities can be measured furthermore clinical experience helps in giving valuable results. A summary gives all the necessary conclusions to the more unexperienced reader and is followed by a good bibliographic index.

R. Salzberg, Basel


This is a summary of the scientific papers held at the session of the German society for perinatal medicine in Berlin (November 1967).

Perinatal medicine has gained a lot of attention in the past years and it was the merit of Prof. Saling in West-Berlin to awake also the attention of the German gynecologists and pediatricians. The brochure is divided in three parts. In the first one different authors give a survey of the scientific data of the newborn immediately post partum. The second chapter is dedicated to the reanimation of the newborn, its dangers and hazards. In the last part some remarks are made about new ways of organisation in an obstetric clinic in order to reduce perinatal mortality.

The book gives a lot of interesting information of all those concerned with the life of the newborn infant.

R. Salzberg, Basel