

There are introductory chapters on the nature of viruses and rickettsiae and the diagnosis of viral and rickettsial infection, followed by chapters on specific infections: herpes simplex; chicken-pox and zoster; smallpox, vaccinia and cowpox; exanthematous diseases; the common cold; herpangina; warts; molluscum contagiosum; viral diseases contracted from animals (including cat scratch disease); epidemic keratoconjunctivitis; inclusion blennorrhoea, trachoma, lymphogranuloma venereum; and the rickettsial diseases. The clinical features, etiology, pathology, diagnosis, treatment and prevention are discussed, and references to the literature are given.

Remarkably fine are the illustrations, many of them in color. There are excellent electron micrographs of many of the viruses. A tabulation of the diagnostic methods (cytology, biopsy, tissue culture, animal susceptibilities and serological tests) for the various diseases is particularly useful.

Since reviewers are generally expected to do a certain amount of fault finding—as evidence that they have actually read the book?—the following items may be noted. In Figure 1 on page 4, the diameters of the erythrocyte and staphylococcus are stated, respectively, as 7000 μ and 1000 μ , which would bring both well into visible range by the unaided eye! The complete identity of the viruses of chicken-pox and herpes zoster is accepted, but that some points of differences are still at issue will be observed in Rivers' *Viral and Rickettsial Diseases of Man* (pp. 509-10). The authors uphold the curative effects of psychotherapy of warts, but the sceptic may point out that the only controlled study of the method showed no difference between treated and untreated cases. The use of the terms fourth, fifth and sixth diseases seems rather archaic. The description of infectious erythema ("fifth disease") is quite inadequate in relation to its importance. A fairly large epidemic of this occurred in San Francisco a few years ago and another might crop up elsewhere at any time. The physician desiring full information about the disease would not find it in this reference volume. The colored picture of herpangina (Plate VI) refers to vesicles on the palate, but shows them only on the tip of the tongue.

These are, on the whole, only minor faults in a really excellent work, which the pediatrician, as well as the internist and dermatol-

ogist, will find a most useful addition to his library.

There are good author and subject indexes.
HAROLD K. FABER, M.D.

FRACTURES IN CHILDREN, Walter P. Blount, M.D. Baltimore, Williams & Wilkins Co., 1954, 279 pp., \$9.50.

The broad subject of Fractures in Children has been discussed in this book with such clarity and simplicity that the book is delightfully readable. A distinct note of authority in discussing each type of fracture that occurs in children is well justified, since Dr. Blount has had the benefit of a great volume of fractures carefully followed over a period of greater than 20 years at the Milwaukee Children's Hospital. This experience has allowed the author to set down principles of treatment which are justified on the basis of end results. More importantly, the fractures commonly seen in any general practice or in the office practice of pediatricians anywhere, are discussed in sufficient detail, that a quick glance at the proper reference in the book would denote the amount of responsibility involved in each instance. This gives the reader a good deal of security in knowing that he is on fairly safe ground in treating the common fractures and it points out very lucidly and sharply the areas in which more difficulties can be anticipated and what those difficulties are.

The book is illustrated sufficiently that the details of treatment can actually be followed and throughout the book the keynote of treatment is conservatism. The exceptions to this stand out in bold print.

This book is a "must" as a quick, easy reference to any physician who undertakes the treatment of fractures in children as a part of his practice.

CARROLL B. LARSON, M.D.

DISORDERS OF CHARACTER, Joseph J. Michaels. Springfield, Illinois, Charles C Thomas Publisher, 1955, 152 pp., \$4.75.

In a small but tightly packed volume, Dr. Michaels has compressed his medical career of research into the subject of persistent enuresis and has correlated this with a high incidence of the condition in juvenile delinquents, particularly those of a psychopathic type.

He has elaborated his findings into a triad of maleness, persistent enuresis, and juvenile de-

linquency. This he has fitted into a rather deeply rooted character structure which he terms as having "bio-psycho-social" connotations.

Dr. Michaels is not very optimistic about the management of this group of individuals because he feels that many of them have a constitutional defect and that their character structure is such they have very little realization of their difficulties and very little anxiety about it. They are, therefore, not amenable to ordinary forms of treatment. However, it would appear from the book that Dr. Michaels is mostly concerned with the research value of his observations, particularly as they point back to early training. The pediatrician will be considerably impressed by the detailed quality of his statistics but will probably find much of the book rather heavy reading.

More important for the pediatrician perhaps would be his comments about the process of toilet training. He points out that there is less understanding of the effects on character structure of urinary training than of bowel training, but emphasizes that training in this area as well as in bowel training is most efficiently done with the full cooperation of the child. In this he points out that children arrive at a stage for toilet training at many different periods but that the important thing is to delay training until the child is physically, neurologically and socially ready to understand what is expected of him. The book does not give any particular material for the handling of the persistent enuretic except that initially the patient must be led to understand his problem and possibly even to develop some anxiety about it so that this can be dealt with and handled along with other personality problems of the child.

He would concur with those who feel that the treatment of enuresis lies in a general psychiatric approach to ways of improving the total personality of the individual.

H. H. WORK, M.D.

FLUORIDATION AS A PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURE, James H. Shaw, Editor. Washington, D.C., The American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1954, 240 pp., \$4.50.

Fluoridation remains a controversial point on many fronts, but perusal of this monograph should settle many questions which have bothered the profession and the lay public alike. The book is the third to be published

by the AAAS on the public health aspects of fluoridation. The series of 11 papers also includes a medical study of a population using an excessive amount of fluoride (8 parts/M.) in a natural water supply. The series of papers is directed to the problem of effectiveness of water fluoridation in reducing dental caries and various elements are considered, namely; dental benefits, public health, engineering and chemical aspects, metabolism of inorganic fluorides, acute fluoride poisoning and crippling chronic fluorosis, among several. Importantly, 2 papers present the medical aspects of fluoridated water. One study was carried on in a community with a fluoridated water supply (1 part/M.) while another cites a 10-year experience of a community with an excessive fluoride supply (8 parts/M.) in a natural water supply. No adverse systemic effects were noted in either community.

This monograph provides an excellent summary of the present knowledge of water fluoridation and provides professional workers with answers to specific problems. In this respect it suits the needs of the pediatrician admirably. Each chapter is adequately documented with pertinent references.

FRANKLIN H. TOP, M.D.

CHILD BEHAVIOR, Frances L. Ilg, M.D., *et al.* New York, Harper & Brothers, 1955, 364 pp., \$3.95.

This book is a recent addition to the publications which have come out either directly from Dr. Arnold Gesell, or have been sponsored by him. It is avowedly a combination of information which was previously offered in the 2 books, *Infant and Child in the Culture of Today* and *The Child from Five to Ten*, but in addition, it is advertised as the first book to provide *specific advice* on what to do about behavior problems in the first 10 years of life.

The information on psychological and social development of children, and the point of view about it, is the same as in the earlier books. Behavior, according to this point of view, is something inherently a part of the child's pattern of development. The influence of the child and his emotions upon his own development and the world around him, as well as the impact on him of his surroundings and particularly his parents, is only slightly acknowledged. The chapter on "Individuality" is largely devoted to a summary of Sheldon's *Varieties of Physique*

Disorders of Character
H. H. WORK
Pediatrics 1956;17:974

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