

Book Reviews

The Physiology of the Newborn Infant. Clement A. Smith, M.D., Springfield, Ill., 1945, Charles C Thomas, 312 pages. Price \$5.50.

Dr. Smith has achieved a major success in writing *The Physiology of the Newborn Infant*, as it fills a much-needed niche in our literature on the subject of the neonatal period. The book is not only authentic on the subjects included, but is also written in an extremely interesting style, each chapter being provided with a summary which facilitates the understanding of the subject matter.

He takes up specifically the fetal and neonatal aspects of the respiratory system, physiology of the circulatory system of the blood, icterus, metabolism, and heat regulation, digestive tract, nutrition, kidneys, the endocrine glands, and immunology.

In each subject he has surveyed the literature up to the present time, and in his discussion of the recognized and controversial subjects alike, he has been specific enough so that the reader comes away from the book with the feeling that he has been brought up to date on many topics.

It is difficult to understand how any conscientious pediatrician can avoid using this book in his daily contacts with newborn babies.

The only possible criticism this reviewer could find with the book is the fact that it fails to mention some of the physiologic activities of the newborn which are perplexing to the clinician. I refer to the more ordinary evidences of activity, such as crying, appetite, and the technique of breast feeding.

These omissions in Dr. Smith's text in no way detract from the usefulness of the book, but it is hoped that in his future editions, he will add some of these more commonplace topics to his discussion.

C. A. A.

An Introduction to Group Therapy. S. R. Slavson, New York, 1943, Commonwealth Fund, 352 pages. Price \$2.00.

Based on the recognition that man is a social animal, workers in the field of psychotherapy have experimented with group experiences as instruments of psychiatric treatment. There has resulted a new treatment method called Group Therapy.

The Jewish Board of Guardians of New York, which is a social service agency rendering child guidance service to children with personality problems, has experimented with this method since 1934. The author of this book directed the study and has formulated in a well-arranged manner an account of its development and achievements. The basic principles of all interpersonal therapy are affirmed and related to the practice of Group Therapy. Included are discussions of the choice and grouping of suitable patient-subjects, and case record illustrations of the function of the therapist and patient. The book will not attract the average pediatricist, because it is a technical treatise on a subject which requires for adequate understanding a more basic knowledge of psychotherapy than the pediatricist usually has acquired. For those with psychological insight, as well as interest in and elementary knowledge of modern child psychology, it will stimulate inquiry as to how modern pediatric practice may be modified to become more effective through clarifying the personal relationships between physician and patient. It will point out, too, indications for psychotherapy generally and criteria for referral of pediatric patients to psychiatric services. The book is recommended for a place in the library of every pediatric teaching center.

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