and includes sections on infant feeding, growth and development, and the problems of normal and disturbed behaviour. Throughout, emphasis is given to those common problems and conditions which have not always been recognized as variations of normality. The author does not avoid contentious issues and with rare exceptions gives practical and authoritative advice on management. There is a degree of imbalance between some of the sections, perhaps reflecting the author's special interests. Thus, 4 pages on circumcision replete with quotations from Kenyatta to the Koran is a little excessive and in contrast to the limited section on tonsillectomy. In general, the style is characterized by the brevity and pungency we have come to expect from the author and is certainly never dull.

Perhaps the greatest compliment to this book is the degree to which its contents have been accepted and incorporated into so many other paediatric texts. It is commended to doctors, medical students and nurses who work with children, both in hospital and in the community as an essential and readable companion to the standard works.

**Practical Gastrointestinal Endoscopy.**


Fibre-optic endoscopy results from the brilliant discovery by Professor Harold Hopkins of the University of Reading. It is a sad reflection on the present state of this country that our inventive genius is no longer combined with manufacturing capability, since all the endoscopic instruments now used in our hospitals are manufactured abroad – principally in Japan and Germany. However, leaving these nationalistic considerations aside, there is no doubt that fibre-optic endoscopy has revolutionized not only our diagnostic, but also our therapeutic practice. There is now no hollow organ immune from the prying eye of brilliantly designed instruments, and ingenious biopsy forceps, cutting loops, dilators, etc., enable many procedures to be carried out by ‘closed’ techniques.

As more and more gastrointestinal endoscopic units are becoming established, staffed by interested physicians, surgeons or radiologists, there is a need for practical guides, and so this volume by two leading authorities on gastrointestinal endoscopy is more than welcome. Practical details are given on basic instrumentation, care of instruments, design of the endoscopy unit, patient preparation and documentation. There are good descriptions of special techniques such as palliative intubation of malignant strictures of the oesophagus, endoscopic retrograde cannulation of the biliary and pancreatic ducts, endoscopic removal of gall stones from the common bile duct and colonic polypectomy Endoscopy during acute upper gastrointestinal bleeding rightly receives special consideration.

The text is clearly produced, the diagrams are profuse and helpful and there is a useful bibliography. This is a book that gastroenterologists with an interest in endoscopy – and this means nearly all of them – will find a useful addition to their library.

**Survey Methods in Community Medicine.**


This book deals with the design and conduct of surveys in medicine from the first idea to the writing of the report. Each chapter follows logically on to the next until the whole subject has been covered in a thoroughly practical way.

It begins with the types and stages in an investigation, the objectives and how to formulate them with a special section on evaluative studies. This is followed by chapters on the study population, the control groups, sampling methods, the defining of variables and of diseases, scales of measurements and composite measurements. Details are given on the methods of collecting data, their reliability and validity, the use of interviews and self-administered questionnaires, how to construct questionnaires in general and the use of documentary sources. The need to plan the analysis early is discussed before the chapters on coding, recording, collection and processing of data. Finally, there are sections on the interpretation of the findings, making sense of associations, generalizing from the results and the writing of the report. Despite the title, the methods described are equally applicable to hospital or community medicine.

Professor Abramson describes his book as an ABC to the design and conduct of studies. It is indeed this but it is also more than this, for the copious notes and references make it useful for those who wish to study the subject in greater detail, while his sense of humour and easy style help to lighten a difficult subject.

The advent of the computer and simpler methods of processing and analysing data has led to a rapid increase in the number of surveys being carried out in medicine. Some produce conflicting results which are often due to methodological differences. Readers who are not familiar with the pitfalls may uncritically accept the latest findings or dismiss them all. This is a book therefore whose value is not confined to those who undertake surveys but can assist writers and readers alike to a more informed and discerning approach to the many studies which are being carried out in medicine.

**Tredgold’s Mental Retardation.**


This book first appeared in 1908 and now enters its 12th edition. Such longevity does testimony to its role as a standard work and to the success with which continuing editions have been adapted during seven decades of the evolution of the subject. The authorship now includes 19 contributors from 3 continents who have sought to bring together the many related disciplines involved in the recognition and management of mental retardation. Thus, in addition to an extensive and well illustrated clinical section, other subject areas embrace the psychiatry and education of the retarded child and adult, the legal aspects encountered in England, Scotland and the United States of America, and the administrative and operational problems involved in classification, team work, planning and organization of services. The final section contains chapters on the specialized but important problems of parent counselling, the relationship with both autism and epilepsy, and the management of the violent and dangerous patient. If any criticism had to be made it might be argued that the scope of the subject matter is too broad to allow a sufficiently full treatment in all of the chapters. Thus, the clinical descriptions of the primary genetic and acquired disorders tend to be synoptic compared with the fuller treatment afforded to them in standard texts. The 300 words allocated to lead intoxication do little to reflect the present day controversy surrounding the subject and this section contains 2 potentially dangerous errors in which the upper acceptable limit for blood lead concentration in children is given as 3·6 mg/dl (instead of 36 µg/dl) or 0·18 mmol/l (instead of 1·8 mmol/l). It is unlikely that this book will appeal to those concerned with early recognition and diagnosis except in so far as it gives a readable perspective to the long-term problems which will ultimately be encountered. Nevertheless, it is commended for all those who work in the long-term care and management of the mentally retarded as a useful reference source which has been successful in highlighting the new and expanding aspects of what has now become a multi-disciplinary field.