Book Reviews

THE PATHOGENESIS OF POLIOMYELITIS

By HAROLD K. FABER, M.D. Pp. xvi + 157, with 16 illustrations. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1955. 36s.

In this small monograph the personal researches of a well-known worker on the poliomyelitis viruses are ably presented. He believes that infection of the central nervous system takes place by way of the peripheral nerves. After infection of the peripheral ganglia there is a secondary excretion into the intestine, followed by re-invasion. He does not believe that there is an initial viremia. His opinions, although interesting, are far from being universally accepted.

THE BOKE OF CHYLDREN

By THOMAS PHAIRE. Pp. 76. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1955. 7s. 6d.

Ther wasse an worthie leech asked to reviewe
'The Boke of Chyldren,' wich thyng nowe he doe
And startes wyth murie sperit ande with penne
To shew to DOCTOURS, and eke othre men
How theye mai reade of scabbynesse and ytche,
Of wynde in eares and tinklyng, alle of whiche
Are writ in lettres bold by THOMAS PHAIRE:
He tretes of ylles yt may be cured by hayr
Of hogges, ground yn an asses-greace oyntment
Wt betony, yt do most excellent
To stoppe consumpscioun, brustyng or ye chingles
For yn this boke manye symptom mingles.
Thogh tretement may bee straunge by owre standard
To bettre hys descripscioun wold be herde
As when he telles of divers sortes of worme.
Hys yllnesses are nevre caused by germe,
But unto evill humours he ascribes
Al sicknesses from apostumes to kybes.
Ye watching chylde was problem then as nowe
And shold be nursed and carryd to allowe
That bellyeful of milke may bee digest,
Wich thyng done, both paraunt and chyld may reste.
Here then, a moste intriguing lyttel boke,
At wich ye wearye PHYSICIOUN maye looke
When from his daylye laboures he feeles soure,
And wold relacks for space of half an houre.

Medical Research Council Memorandum, No. 32

THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF HAEMOPHILIA AND ITS RELATED CONDITIONS

By R. G. MACFARLANE, M.D., and R. BIGGS, M.D. Pp. viii + 23. London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office. 1955. 2s. 6d.

The preface stresses that although haemophilia is the most important of the group of haemorrhagic disorders caused by defective clotting of the blood, is not a common condition, it gives rise to a pressing social problem. The memorandum was written by two of our leading experts in this field on behalf of the Haemophilia Committee of the Medical Research Council.

In the introduction the present concept of coagulation is given:

1. Antihaemophilic globulin + Platelet + Christmas factor $\xrightarrow{\text{Factor VII}}$ Intermediate product.
2. Intermediate product + Factor V $\xrightarrow{\text{Thromboplastin}}$ Thromboplastin.
3. Prothrombin $\xrightarrow{\text{Thrombin}}$ Thrombin.
4. Fibrinogen $\longrightarrow$ Fibrin.

The incidence of haemophilics in this country is believed to be 1 to 2 per 100,000.

The chapter on clinical diagnosis emphasises the value of a good history and the drawing up of a family tree which should cover at least three generations. Haemophilia should be distinguished from purpura and acquired clotting defects as well as from vascular disturbances.

Laboratory diagnosis should include platelet counts, bleeding time, tourniquet tests and a whole-blood clotting time. Conditions with an abnormal one-stage prothrombin time are fibrinopenia, prothrombin deficiency, factor V deficiency, and factor VII deficiency. The group with a normal one-stage prothrombin time contains haemophilia, Christmas disease and the presence of circulating anti-coagulants.

The chapter on technique deals with the preparation of special reagents, preliminary tests and a description of the thromboplastin generation test.

The last section, on treatment, states that the