

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS : BOEKRESENSIES

## THE MENTALLY RETARDED CHILD, FOR PARENTS

*The Mentally Retarded Child. A Guide for Parents.* By Abraham Levinson, M.D. Pp. 128. 12s. 6d. London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd. 1955.

*Contents:* 1. The Parents of the Mentally Retarded Child. 2. Advice to Parents. 3. Historical Survey. 4. What is Mental Retardation? 5. The Brain. 6. How the Doctor Makes a Diagnosis. 7. Team Work. 8. Early Recognition. 9. Causes of Mental Retardation. 10. Prevention of Mental Retardation. 11. Treatment of Mental Retardation. 12. Education of the Mentally Retarded Child. 13. Vocational Training and Guidance. 14. Outlook for the Future. 15. Community and State Responsibility. 16. Research. 17. The Dr. Julian D. Levinson Research Foundation. Organizations. Index.

This is a valuable book, written primarily for parents, though with a fair resumé of the anatomy, physiology and pathology of the causes of mental retardation.

Written by an American, it has been annotated by a psychiatric social worker in England in order to clarify the differences between the social and educational arrangements in the two countries. It is in the educational sphere, both of parent and child, that the main problem exists.

Much remains to be done in South Africa on this problem, and this book can be strongly recommended to all parents of retarded children. Upon the parents falls the main burden, and they should be encouraged to form groups for the discussion of their difficulties, and to bring pressure to bear to improve facilities for the handling of these handicapped children.

P.V.S.

*Lipponcott's Quick Reference Book for Nurses.* By Mary E. Allanach, A.M., R.N.; Elizabeth S. Gill, B.S., R.N.; Helen F. Pettit, A.M., R.N.; Dorothy E. Reilly, M.S., R.N. and Nelda Ross Larsson, M.S. Seventh Edition. Pp. 727. 32s. net. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd.

*Contents:* Section 1. Pharmacology. Section 2. Medical and Surgical. Section 3. Nursing Technics. Section 4. Diet Therapy. Section 5. Maternity Nursing, Including Child Care. Appendix. Index.

This book has proved its usefulness to thousands of nurses since it first appeared in 1933. Then the authors made no claim to originality of material but sought to provide a book which would live up to its name of 'quick reference'.

With the changing times, the introduction of new nursing techniques and the general progress of medicine, this new edition has brought the whole volume up to date. Although the revision has entailed considerable work and the complete resetting of the type, it has also made possible such rearrangement as was necessary to improve a book which had already proved its worth.

There is little need to go into detail regarding the scope of the book—a glance at the chapter titles above is sufficient to indicate this. It is very complete and is a first class book of 'quick reference'. As such it will continue to help the present generation of nurses.

A.H.T.