

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

THE BRAIN-INJURED CHILD

The Other Child. The Brain-Injured Child. 2nd edition. By Richard S. Lewis, Alfred A. Strauss and Laura E. Lehtinen. Pp. x + 148. \$3.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1960.

In an age where more and more thought is being given to social medicine, it is to be expected that the problem of the handicapped child should be given increasing attention. The blind, the deaf, and the epileptic have been well cared for, for some time, in South Africa, but only in the last decade have the needs of the brain-injured child received consideration. This has resulted from the establishment of schools for the cerebral palsied child, and the admission to these schools of the 'non-motor handicapped brain-injured child'.

One of the major difficulties to be overcome is the lack of knowledge about methods of teaching, and of handling this type of disability. There are very few education experts in the world who have made a special study of this problem. A con-

siderable contribution has been made by the late Prof. Alfred E. Strauss, one of the founders of the Cove Schools of the USA, where brain-injured children are educated and rehabilitated. He has published two books on the *Psychopathology and Education of the Brain-injured Child*, Volume I in collaboration with Laura E. Lehtinen, and Volume II in collaboration with Prof. C. Kephort. *The Other Child* is written jointly with Richard E. Lewis, himself the father of a brain-injured child, and Laura E. Lehtinen. This book is a second edition, published after the first edition had received a very favourable reception.

'*The other child*' — not, I think a very apt title — refers to the 'otherness' of the brain-injured child. It is the child who deviates from the normal profile, whose development appears to be erratic, and whose behaviour tends to be non-conformist and unpredictable. As he grows up, his development is recognized as being different from the normal pattern.

The authors deal with the problems of perception and conception of speech and behaviour, as well as the manage-

ment of the child at home, and his education at school.

This book is written in a clear, simple style, untrammelled by obscure terminology or references. For those interested in the problem there are few better publications. Doctors, therapists, teachers and parents will find it a great asset.

B.E.

INTRODUCTION TO ANATOMY

Introduction to Anatomy 1532. By David Edwardes. Translation by C. D. O'Malley and K. F. Russell. Pp. 64. R1.50. London and Cape Town: Oxford University Press. 1961.

During the reign of King Henry VIII, a fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, one David Edwardes, set out to write a short introduction to anatomy. Since then, many other scholars have undertaken a similar task, but none has achieved his purpose as convincingly as the good Master Edwardes. His *Brief but Excellent Introduction to Anatomy* (1532) is contained in 19 small pages, of which 4 are devoted to a dedication to his patron, Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey. The modern medical student, staggering under the weight of 'Gray' and 'Cunningham' will readily appreciate that Edwardes's book was popular in its day—so popular, in fact, that only one copy remains today. This unique copy—inevitably in the British Museum—has now been reproduced in facsimile together with an annotated translation and an excellent introduction by Drs. O'Malley and Russell.

Edwardes's 'Anatomy' is essentially medieval and follows the teachings of Aristotle and Galen: the heart has 3 chambers and the liver 3 or more lobes; spirits flow from the liver, to the heart, to the brain, and thence down the nerves to the muscles; semen passes down the blood vessels to the right testis to produce male offspring and to the left to produce females; a venous plexus (*rete mirabilis*) is described at the base of the brain and this is the centre of all bodily movement and sensation.

But there are occasional glimpses of the light to come. Edwardes shows in his Dedication that he has grasped the significance of anatomy as a basis for medical practice and that an inadequate knowledge of the parts of the body may lead to fatal errors of clinical judgment. His text is the first to mention human dissection in England, and immediately the virtue of independent observation is realized: in describing the renal blood vessels he notes that 'In the body of that one whom we dissected very recently the left branch had a higher place of origin'—a finding which was not in accord with the traditional Galenic doctrine.

Dr. O'Malley has often served students of medical history very well with his entertaining and erudite studies of Leonardo da Vinci, Vesalius, Servetus and others. Now, with Dr. K. F. Russell, he has further endeared his readers by resurrecting this interesting little work and presenting it in a most delightful fashion.

H.G.