

BOOK REVIEW : BOEKBESPREKING**PAEDIATRIC SURGERY**

The Essentials of Paediatric Surgery. By H. H. Nixon, M.A., F.R.C.S. and B. O'Donnell, M.Ch., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.S.I. Pp. xii + 315. Illustrated. R4.00. London: William Heinemann Ltd. 1961.

The authors, in writing this book, have attained their object, viz. to help students and doctors to integrate the surgical and medical aspects of paediatrics. Emphasis is placed on the accurate clinical diagnosis of serious remediable conditions.

There is much useful information on the many minor ailments which require little active treatment, but on which definitive, authoritative advice must be given.

The chapter on infections in the neonatal period in particular, is very well written. However, I cannot agree with the authors in their recommendation of not employing drainage of the peritoneal cavity or the wound in acute appendicitis with peritonitis. Nor can I agree with their recommendation of conservative treatment of an appendix mass in children.

The production of this book is excellent and I have no hesitation in recommending it to students, general practitioners, paediatricians and those in charge of child-welfare clinics.

S.C.