

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

PAEDIATRICS

Pediatrics. 14th ed. Ed. by H. L. Barnett, M.D. Pp. xxv + 1847. Illustrated. \$22.50. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts. 1968.

This new edition of what was previously known as *Holt's Textbook of Pediatrics* makes strong claim for pride of place on the paediatrician's bookshelf and is a must for all medical libraries. The editor's wide selection of authors has ensured that each subject is expertly covered, and fully up to date. Thus, recent advances in the fields of perinatal physiology, consumptive coagulopathy, and immunology are clearly expounded. The sections on cardiology, neurology and endocrinology are well written and comprehensive. Every chapter is supported by an extensive list of references. The text is enhanced by many diagrams, tables and excellent clinical photographs.

The section on viral illnesses is excellent, if perhaps too detailed for the practising clinician. In the section on growth and development percentile graphs of head circumference and body skinfolds at different ages could have been usefully included. The section on acid-base disturbances is well written

with good theoretical background, but the therapeutic regimens are, perhaps, made unnecessarily complex.

This book is highly recommended as a source of reference for undergraduate and postgraduate students and for all involved in the care of sick children.

P.M.L.

BCG VACCINATION

B.C.G. Vaccination. By R. Mande. Pp. 280. Illustrated. £6.0.0. London: Dawsons of Pall Mall. 1968.

This up-to-date volume deals fully with techniques, assessment and protection afforded by BCG vaccination, its place in tuberculosis control, and many other aspects of the subject. Of particular interest is an analysis of all 13 reported cases of fatal generalized BCG disease, and the conclusion that these are isolated occurrences resulting from deficient immune mechanisms.

Professor Mande's book will be of interest to all medical practitioners, and not only those in the public health field, since BCG vaccination plays a major role in tuberculosis control in South Africa.

T.F.B.C.