for his historical sense was one of his outstanding intellectual qualities. Alas, his prepared speeches, vivid though they are to read, cannot give more than a faint impression of the unforgettable delight of his conversation, nor of the effect of his extemporary contributions to conference or committee. Yet it was by these means that he mainly achieved the great influence he had on his contemporaries during his lifetime. His approach to life had much of the imaginativeness of the artist about it, so that his judgments seemed to be arrived at intuitively, and his opinions often had a touch of waywardness about them, leading to his being apt to take an entirely unexpected line on some controversial issue. Inevitably these aspects of his personality cannot be reflected in a book made up of his formal utterances.

Yet, happily, something of the charm of his personality, of the enchantment of his companionship, and of the impact which these made upon those who knew him is brought out in the excellent Memoir (in effect a short biography) which Sir John Charles has written for this book.

All must be grateful to those who have given us this book, for James Spence was one of the two or three men whose ideas have shaped paediatrics in this country since the War.

Cancer and Allied Diseases of Infancy and Childhood. Ed. I. M. ARIEL and G. T. PACK. (Pp. xiii + 605; 344 figs.) London: Churchill. 1960.

This is a work of multiple authorship in which 27 contributors, all from the United States, have cooperated. The editors state that it is 'the first comprehensive treatise devoted exclusively to the clinical aspects of cancer and allied diseases in children'. The list of contributors includes names that are well known outside the United States and all are workers of experience and authority.

The scope of the book is wide. Nearly every possible type of neoplasm that may afflict children is mentioned. A liberal interpretation is given to the term ‘allied diseases’, a number of developmental anomalies being included which are allied to cancer only as possible problems in differential diagnosis. The principal interest of the book is surgical, although chapters are devoted to leukaemia and the ‘reticuloendothelioses’, which are mainly of medical interest. Some of the authors describe surgical techniques and many give details of radiotherapy. An interesting feature of many contributions is the evaluation of results of treatment culled from large series of cases in various important centres. Pathology is introduced only for the purpose of classification and to indicate the bearing of histological structure on the behaviour of tumours and consequently on treatment. No detailed pathological descriptions are given.

A few criticisms may be offered on pathological grounds. The controversial ‘Ewing’s tumour of bone’ is accepted as a pathological entity and the frequency with which the syndrome is produced by secondary neuroblastoma is ignored. In Chapter 13 the author's attempt to resolve the existing terminological confusion between dermoid cysts and teratomata leaves the reader still confused. It is obvious that the term ‘dermoid’ is too widely applied. A new confusion is created by applying the term ‘non-lipid reticuloendotheliosis’ to Hand-Schüller-Christian disease in contrast to the diseases of Gaucher and Niemann-Pick, which are termed ‘lipid reticuloendotheliosis’. This terminology is unfortunate because Hand-Schüller-Christian disease has hitherto been known as lipid reticuloendotheliosis and Letterer-Siwe disease as non-lipid reticuloendotheliosis.

It is surprising that the treatment of neuroblastoma with vitamin B12 is dismissed in two brief sentences. In view of the encouraging results reported from Great Ormond Street Hospital, this merits more detailed consideration in a comprehensive book such as this.

The editing is good and little overlapping between contributors has been permitted. A few misprints and grammatical errors have escaped correction. The book is well produced and generously illustrated, especially with clinical photographs and radiographs. A copious bibliography is provided. The index is full but would be improved by the use of heavy type to indicate principal references among multiple entries.

The Development of the Infant and Young Child—Normal and Abnormal. By R. S. ILLINGWORTH. (Pp. 318; illustrated. 27s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: Livingstone. 1960.

This is a book about the mental development of children during the first five years of life. It is not concerned with physical growth nor does it trace the mental development in specific mental diseases. The title of the book could mislead the casual reader and has rather a dull, prosaic sound about it. Not so the text. In articles published in recent years Professor Illingworth has shown great skill in portraying the social and intellectual development of young children in words readily comprehensible to paediatricians, general practitioners and lay social workers alike. In this book he has excelled himself. This is a splendid simplification and condensation of the original studies of Gesell and others adapted by the author for day-to-day clinical use and widely modified by his own large experience in paediatric practice. The reader is usually given a clear expression of opinion and many illustrative case histories are recorded. There is a wealth of good, sound, practical advice and the text includes several specimen charts for recording developmental progress which can be applied without any specialized equipment or training. There is wise emphasis upon the value of personal history-taking by an experienced clinician, though not everyone would draw quite the same conclusions from the examples quoted. There is, perhaps necessarily, a good deal of repetition in the early chapters where norms of development are discussed in the text, then classified in tables by age and then again grouped in more complex tables. The perpetual problem of deciding what is 'normal' and when behaviour becomes 'abnormal' has often been ingeniously circumvented in this book by the device of having three standards: (1) Normal, (2) Variations from Normal; (3) Abnormal.
Each chapter has an excellent bibliography and the book has a good index. It would be surprising to find no mention of autism in the index, though it receives passing mention in the text, but for the conviction that the author is really concerned with normal development and only considers abnormalities in order to illustrate how normal development can be distorted.

Chapters 5 and 12 deal with pathological development in a general fashion rather than in specific disease entities. There is a short chapter on the diagnosis of cerebral palsy and an entertaining, if not very instructive, chapter on persons of exceptional mental superiority.

The illustrations are clear and useful adjuncts to the text and there are very few misprints. There is a slight error on page 251 where two lines on electroencephalography are allowed to intrude into discussion of pneumoencephalography and, taken in conjunction with the following sentence, might suggest that electroencephalography is a dangerous test.

This book is entertaining and it is practical; it is very well written; it should certainly be read by all who are engaged in the study of young children and it should be purchased for permanent reference rather than borrowed from a library.

The Physiology of the Newborn Infant. By Clement A. Smith. (Pp. xii + 497; 62 figs. 95s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 3rd edition. 1960.

The supremely high standard of previous editions of this classic study are more than fully maintained. Many chapters have been re-written. Revision has involved careful appraisal of advances made in the study of neonatal physiology since publication of the previous edition. Acknowledgements make special reference to the activities of the Nuffield Institute for Medical Research at Oxford, and the Department of Experimental Medicine at Cambridge. The format of the book remains unchanged. Each chapter consists of a scholarly evaluation of the present state of existing knowledge and prevailing views, and concludes with a summary outlining the significance and practical application of that knowledge in the clinical care of the newborn infant. Together, the richness of his personal research contributions and the wide ranging wealth of his references afford some indication of the immensity of the task undertaken by the author. With admirable skill, he marshals his evidence; from a maze of often conflicting views delineates a clearly defined theme; and with carefully developed, logical argument arrives at his assessment of the present position. Established facts are given as such. Theories as yet unproven are presented in unprejudiced form, but with an indication as to the extent to which they may be legitimately permitted to influence clinical practice. Herein is to be found one of the special among innumerable attractions of the book to practising paediatricians. Seldom is accumulated experience and erudition available in such stimulating and readable form, as in this book. Could there be more penetrating answer to the question 'Does physiologic jaundice ever cause kernicterus, or other significant pathology?' than the author's—'The clinical problem of physiologic jaundice has heretofore been essentially a problem of differential diagnosis. It may now have become one of definition'?

Diseases of the Nervous System in Infancy, Childhood and Adolescence. 4th ed. By Frank R. Ford. (Pp. xvi × 1548; 215 figs. 236s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1960.

Frank Ford's textbook, which is one of the major classics of medicine, has now reached its fourth edition. The first appeared in 1937. It is becoming increasingly rare for a single writer to attempt to cope with such an extensive field, but the result certainly has advantages in respect of uniformity of presentation and simplicity of reference. Dr. Ford's approach is refreshingly personal, thus: 'Hysterical deafness is described but I have never seen it.' In this way he avoids carrying over material of doubtful validity from previous texts. At the same time his account of the subject is very extensive and authoritative. There is no other work with which it can be compared and it is essential to any library dealing with paediatrics, neurology or child psychiatry.

The price of the book makes it unlikely to appeal to the individual purchaser though it is worth much more than a great deal of ephemeral literature. The volume is well documented and some idea of the scope can be gained from the fact that the index occupies 221 pages. The index would have been much more convenient if authors and subjects had been listed separately. The mere weight of the book makes it cumbersome for the less athletic reader; perhaps two volumes should be considered if it is to grow any more.

Dr. Ford does not give an account of the neurology of old age, but otherwise his text is so full that one wonders in what other respect it differs from a comprehensive treatise on neurology. None the less it will continue to make a special appeal to those interested in children. The revision of the new edition appears very adequate and has obviously involved critical scrutiny of recent publications. Crom'e work on the neuropathology of mental subnormality is mentioned four times and a bibliography is provided in addition to references in the text. The illustrations are excellent and the quality of the paper does full justice to them.

In his section on tuberous sclerosis Dr. Ford states: 'No doubt tuberous sclerosis is frequently responsible for convulsions which are mistakenly attributed to epilepsy'. This might indicate a dualist approach, but in fact this is not reflected in the excellent chapter on epilepsy which fully recognizes the principle of causality and refers only in passing to the 'so-called essential epilepsies' as those in which 'no clinical evidence of organic disease of the brain can be found'. The author also shows a very proper scientific scepticism in regard to a special 'epileptic personality'.

It is rather surprising to find such an authority as Dr. Ford falling into the usual trap about 'mongolian spots' which he described as part of the syndrome of mongolism. Perhaps we could avoid these difficulties if we used the Russian term of 'Down's disease!'. The true Mongol spot is a naevoid formation in the lumbo-sacral area,