

dislocation, and all the other ills with which orthopaedic surgeons are only too familiar, even including abnormal antversion of the femoral neck.

The rest of the book contains a general summary of the many views held from time to time on the aetiology and treatment of frank congenital dislocation of the hip and occasional quotations from past and present masters such as Putti, of Bologna, and our own Sir Thomas Fairbank. Some of this seems hardly germane to the author's purpose of following in Putti's footsteps by leading a crusade for earlier diagnosis. He does, however, go further than any of his mentors, not only by integrating their work, but by showing how diagnosis can be made quite simply at an early age by almost any doctor, and by recommending Frejka's pillow splint.

Orthopaedic surgeons need no conversion to the view that the earlier you treat the patients the better your congenital-hip results become, but they ought to read this well-documented and well-illustrated plea for increased co-operation from their colleagues in charge of the newborn. The author clearly believes that early diagnosis and treatment are now within reach, and that together they constitute the preventive surgery of congenital dislocation of the hip.

ERIC I. LLOYD.

HOUSING AND FAMILY LIFE

Housing and Family Life. By Professor J. M. Mackintosh, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 230; illustrated. 16s.) London: Cassell and Company. 1952.

The distinguished writer of this book has prodded us benevolently for a long time in his many excellent publications on preventive medicine. Here is further stimulation on the same high standard. I started reading the book as a task and finished it as a pleasure, and found it so full of new ideas and fresh views on old ones that I am firmly resolved to read it again, and perhaps yet again, in order to get the full flavour.

Professor Mackintosh gently reminds us of many things we ought to do and ought not to do. For example, he deplores the separation of the water-closet from the bathroom in the normal family house and gives cogent reasons for doing so. Two photographs show only too clearly the shadowing of windows of new buildings by overhanging eaves in one case and by balconies in another. It would have been interesting to have had the author's views about this, views which would be uninfluenced, of course, by the fact that in each case there was an award of a Ministry of Health Housing Medal, which was no doubt well merited for other reasons. The excellent paper does full justice to the printing of the illustrations. The plates include photographs of a variety of houses old and new. In two of them the Manchester streets, even though the photographs were taken on a dry day, are recognizable without the caption. But if the setts had only been glistening with rain, how much more convincing the pictures would have been to the non-Manxunian. This book is good and I would recommend that it be acquired, read, lent with discretion, and finally kept.

C. METCALFE BROWN.

FROM FIELD TO TABLE

Townsmen's Food. By Magnus Pyke, B.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.I.C. (Pp. 212. 15s.) London: Turnstile Press Ltd. 1952.

The inhabitants of large towns depend for their food supplies on the successful carrying out of many complicated arrangements. Food collected in distant parts of the country, and even in remote corners of the world, must be wholesome and attractive after it has been transported, stored, and distributed. The time available between the collection of the food at its original source and its appearance on the urban table will depend on its perishability, and with foods such as milk and fish the processes which postpone deterioration for comparatively short times may

be of great economic importance. Other foods, such as flour, cheese, and unripe fruits, may improve with time, and artificial processes may be devised to simulate the effects of storage. To preserve his products the food manufacturer may resort to the well-known methods of canning, drying, and refrigeration. To "improve" their quality he may also make use of a variety of chemical agents, some of which may prove to be less harmless than he had suspected.

In discussing such topics—and others relating to bread, meat, fish, chicken, eggs, ice-cream, fats, margarine, sugar sweeteners, fruit, and jam—Dr. Magnus Pyke is aided by both a wide range of experience and by a natural gift for writing. As a Principal Scientific Officer at the Ministry of Food during the second world war he watched the interplay of scientific knowledge, economic necessity, and popular prejudice in shaping official policy. In making decisions, he soon realized, the choice was usually not between black and white, but between shades of grey. If the wheat embryo was used to improve the quality of the national flour there must be a corresponding cut in the rations for pigs and poultry. Cheeses of the Stilton type might be highly nutritious and appeal both by taste and by tradition, but their production could not be allowed to impede the advance of social progress in providing milk for schoolchildren. While a sly sense of humour is occasionally given play, the author never seeks to contrast common human folly with his own wisdom, and concentrates on the modest presentation of facts rather than on attempts at propaganda. This book should make stimulating reading for the ordinary citizen, for whom it is intended, but few dietitians or others interested in nutrition will fail to find something that is both new and important to them.

T. MOORE.

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

Die Krankhafte Blutdrucksteigerung. By Professor L. Hantschmann. (Pp. 228; 33 figures. M. 36.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1952.

The title of this book is most nearly translated by "morbid high blood pressure." The author points out that the subject of this review is really a deranged vital function which leads to extensive independent pathological consequences. But at present it is difficult to grasp, for all the different pathological possibilities cannot yet be co-ordinated. Perhaps fewer monographs on this subject have appeared in German than in English, so on this ground the author considers some attempt is due. In the general part of the book he discusses in its first section the normal blood pressure and its regulation and variations. He then considers the causes of morbid high blood pressure, and he supports the idea that in increase of blood pressure, as suggested by Aschoff and some earlier writers, a true plethora plays a part. Pathological changes in vessels are the result and not the cause of hypertension. He discusses reflex causes in the central nervous system, and draws attention to the reflexes arising from urinary obstruction. The teaching and influence of Volhard permeate this book strongly. The author discusses the division of hypertensives into red and white types and gives some details of the differences in the capillary circulation of each. Perhaps we have paid too little attention to these generalizations; it may be there is something here that needs more study. There is some evidence that there are parallel differences in the kidneys themselves. The author's account of treatment is rather disappointing; little has been done as yet with the sympathicolytic drugs—sympathectomy has not been very fully exploited. We in Britain hardly fear the provoking of Graves's disease by giving iodine. "Veratrum virile" is a curious misprint. There are a good many long case histories which are rather tedious and dully presented. But the book is worth reading, in part, if not all through, in order to gain some insight into the rather different points of view held on the Continent.

TERENCE EAST.