

The Development of the Infant and Young Child: Normal and Abnormal. By R. S. ILLINGWORTH. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1960. Pp. viii and 318, illustrated. Price 27s. 6d.

The author, in his preface, points out that although there are several excellent books on development, mostly written by psychologists, there is a need for one written by a paediatrician—to tell the doctor in simple language just what can be learnt about a child's development. He does so in detail for children up to the age of five years and with some excellent illustrations; the influence of Arnold Gesell and Ruth Griffiths is clear. He points out that it is important to be able to recognize mental and physical handicaps at an early age; and he disagrees on the whole with those who believe that development tests in infancy have little predictive value. On the other hand, he stresses the need for a full history including careful attention not only to developmental data but also to the environmental circumstances of the child; a diagnosis of handicap must be certain. The factors affecting development are reviewed with many references: incidentally a useful list for the child psychiatrist. The effect of emotional deprivation in young children is uncritically accepted. A chapter on the association of physical defects and of disease with mental development is less successful. Many rare disorders are briefly mentioned as sometimes causative of mental defect, although there is no mention anywhere of childhood schizophrenia; a condition which is surely occasionally of importance in the differential diagnosis. However, this is a useful and clearly written book of reference; it is least happy where psychiatric as opposed to developmental psychological factors are considered.

W. WARREN.

Discussions on Child Development. The Fourth Meeting of the World Health Organization Study Group on the Psychobiological Development of the Child. Geneva, 1956. Edited by J. M. TANNER and BÄRBEL INHELDER. London: Tavistock Publications, 1960. Pp. 186.

This volume gives the proceedings of the fourth and last meeting of the W.H.O. Research Study Group held in 1956, when a small group of eminent workers from different scientific disciplines who had met each year to further their exploration of the psychological development of the child searched for a synthesis of all the data that had been presented and discussed at previous meetings, i.e. they attempted to delineate the field of interdisciplinary research which would be most usefully followed in their subsequent work.

In the preface to this volume, it is pointed out that to appreciate its contents the reader should have read the three volumes that preceded it. These had given verbatim accounts of the presentations and subsequent discussion in the group, inevitably in shortened form. The present volume differs in that the first part is devoted to a paper by Professor Jean Piaget, which contains his views on the basic questions to be asked by all those of whatever discipline who are investigating the development of the child; and the written replies to specific questions he asked each member of the group. The second part gives a shortened version of the discussion that ensued and a final summing up by Piaget.

This fourth instalment again gives much food for thought to the reader; the inclusion of Piaget's paper and the comments in reply, as well as the discussion, largely meet the frustration that the reader may have felt over the previous reports in that they were not quite in on what took place. So wide are the issues covered, however, it is not feasible to outline them, although they are of interest "to all those concerned with the genesis of the adult human personality, whether their prime concern is with physical or psychological or sociological factors".

W. WARREN.

The Mentally Handicapped and Their Families. By J. TIZARD and JACQUELINE C. GRAD. London: Oxford University Press, 1961.

This book describes a three year social survey, started in 1954, of the problems of families containing a mentally defective imbecile or idiot and compares families in