

BOOK REVIEWS

LES ANTIBIOTIQUES ET LES MALADIES DE L'ENFANCE,
Centre International de L'Infant, Pp. 298, Paris, 1952.

This book contains the lectures delivered at the Seminar on Antibiotics organised in Paris from Sept. 22-27, 1952 by the International Children's Centre under the Chairmanship of Sir A. Flemming.

It has 54 chapters grouped under the following heads (i) Action of antibiotics on infections, (ii) Treatment of Tuberculosis in children, (iii) Laboratory aspects of antibiotics. Thirteen chapters are in English and the rest in French. The International character of the seminar is well reflected by the nationalities of 90 participants, who were drawn from 16 countries of Europe and representatives of W.H.O., and C.I.O.M.S.

The lectures and discussion give a very good review of the use of antibiotics in various diseases, and also of the mode and mechanism of actions, synergism and side-effects.

DOBBS discussing the value of antibiotics in the treatment of coliform infections in (a) the newborn and (b) gastro-enteritis of infancy advocated the use of antibiotics for the prevention of neonatal infections and gastro-enteritis only under special circumstances. But he gives a warning in the following words "So long as gastro-enteritis responds so well to supportive treatment, the routine use of a specific therapeutic agent is of remarkably little help in the routine treatment of the disease. Its use can never be a short cut to proper control of fluid and electrolyte metabolism together with dietetic treatment".

Views expressed in the seminar are essentially personal but the reader can get a good idea about the use of antibiotics in various diseases in which antibiotics are the main pivot of therapy.

BOOKS RECEIVED

PORHYRINS, A VANNOTT—*Hilge & Watts Ltd.*, London.