

Boekbesprekings : Book Reviews

ETHNIC PIGMENTATION

Ethnic Pigmentation. Historical, physiological and clinical aspects. By H. P. Wassermann, B.Sc., M.B. Ch.B. (Pret.), M.Med. (Int.Med.), M.D. (Stell.). Pp. ix + 284. Illustrated. Dfl. 76,00. Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica. 1974.

Wassermann's book is written around his attractive hypothesis that the dark pigmentation of the natives of the tropics is a by-product of an adaptation of the reticulo-endothelial system to a disease-stressed environment through decreased adrenocortical activity. It is a careful and concise study of all that is known about ethnic pigmentation and about melanin and its functions in the skin and other organs. It is fully documented and indexed, and altogether a fascinating and admirable work.

J.M.

PAEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGY

Heart Disease in Paediatrics. Postgraduate Paediatrics Series. By S. C. Jordan, M.D., M.R.C.P. and Olive Scott, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. x + 291. Illustrated. R10,50. London and Durban: Butterworths. 1974.

The authors achieve their aim in this book, viz. an up-to-date introduction to paediatric cardiology. The subject matter is generally well covered in the short space of 284 pages. The final chapter on the 'Social Problems of Congenital Heart Disease' is welcome. Omissions are the occurrence of hypoglycaemia in neonates with congestive heart failure; and the value of echocardiography as a non-invasive diagnostic technique. The book should prove useful for the interested paediatrician, or the registrar in training.

S.E.L.