

Book Review

A GROWTH CHART FOR INTERNATIONAL USE IN MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CARE-WHO PUBLICATION.

This booklet has been published by the World Health Organisation this year. A lot of background work was done apparently, to prepare these growth charts.

There is very little information about growth patterns of children in under developed countries. The Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition units of WHO, have studied all the data available and printed a comprehensive pictorial graph concerning weight for age, as well as height for age. These records have the 3rd, 50th and 97th percentiles charted. The source

of their data being from the United States (HEW Dept. 1976). An additional feature is the inclusion of three more parameters denoting between 3rd percentile and 3 standard deviation, —3 to —4 standard deviation and less than —4 standard deviation. These should be very useful in countries where the average weight and height are less than those determined in developed countries.

An attempt has been made to get mothers interested in working with the health team, by the provision of a personal growth chart for their use. This is intended to increase the mother's incentive in the care and nutrition of her child. It may not prove to be a very successful experiment as mothers are notorious for loosing clinical records. This seems to have been a common experience in the trials carried out with the present charts.

I feel that this booklet is a creditable effort to provide more comprehensive percentile growth records. The discussion given here about their use is also informative. Until we have compiled local data in our country, such a growth chart should prove to be of great help in maternal and child health centres in Pakistan.

D.S. Akram

"You want to remain up-to-date with the fast-growing knowledge in medicine, but have no time to read all the journals. Then you must read:

World Medical Abstracts

which is published monthly by 'Scientific Documentations', London, England and contains about 500 abstracts every month abstracted from the scientific papers published in various medical journals throughout the world. The reprints of the original papers can be obtained direct from the authors, whose addresses are shown with every abstract, or should you have any difficulty, we will be pleased to get them for you.

Annual subscription inclusive fo airfreight and postage: Rs. 550 or US \$57, payable to 'World Medical Abstracts' in advance by Bank Draft only.

Please send your subscription order to:-

World Medical Abstracts

Suite 500, 29/30 Warwick Street, London W1R 5RD, England."