

REVIEW

CHILD NUTRITION. A Survey in the Parit District of Perak, Federation of Malaya, by Florence A. Thomson. Bulletin No. 10 from the Institute for Medical Research, Federation of Malaya, 1960.

Protein malnutrition (Kwashiorkor) has been known to exist in Malaya but its exact incidence was unknown. Dr. Thomson in this Bulletin shows clearly that it was not uncommon in the two isolated Malay communities studied. 19% of the children examined showed obvious signs and 44% showed some signs pointing to a protein deficient diet. But the survey is a comprehensive one including all possible factors re-

lating to child nutrition. These included economic factors, customs, traditions, and habits of the community. The pattern of life makes the toddler the chief sufferer and although poverty plays a part in this, harmful customs and ignorance are factors of considerable importance. Dr. Thomson gives sound advice on how these difficulties can be overcome by first gaining the confidence of the Community and then giving advice particularly in the use of inexpensive natural food stuffs. This is an excellent survey which will be of interest to many including doctors and social workers.

C. E. Field.