

ADVANCES
IN Pediatrics

VOLUME 18

ADVANCES *in* PEDIATRICS

EDITOR

IRVING SCHULMAN

*The Abraham Lincoln School of Medicine
University of Illinois Medical Center
Chicago, Illinois*

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Palo Alto, California*

ABRAHAM M. RUDOLPH

*University of California School of Medicine
San Francisco, California*

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Editor's Preface

PEDIATRICS often has been termed a "future oriented" specialty, implying ongoing concern of the pediatrician not just with life but with the quality of life to be lived by children. The role of the pediatrician as a genetic counselor is assuming ever-increasing importance as parents properly demand the right to make informed decisions in family planning. Thus, the article on this subject is timely and significant.

The quality of life is determined in all too many instances not by the genetic endowment of the infant but by the society into which he is born, and burdens may be imposed on him in fetal and neonatal life which he may never be able to overcome. The question of the influence of nutrition on subsequent intellectual development also discussed in this volume has world-wide significance and is one with which all pediatricians must be concerned.

Also to be found in this issue are articles dealing with important disease processes affecting children and the new knowledge relating to the understanding of their basic mechanisms, diagnosis and treatment.

The Editors wish to express appreciation to the distinguished authors who have contributed to this volume.

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