necessity of allying structure with function. It is particularly gratifying to find a subject such as metaplasia, which receives scant attention in many works on pathology, dealt with so completely. When discussing repair and regeneration some clarity of definition is lost and it is a pity that a confusing and contradictory term such as "compensatory regenerative hyperplasia" has found its way into an otherwise excellent chapter. At the present time when the wider aspects of immunity are becoming appreciated the chapter on transplantation will be enjoyed by all.

It must have been difficult choosing a title for a work which deals with so many different topics. As in previous works Professor Willis has wisely selected essentially practical problems which concern pathologists and ones on which reliable information cannot always be readily obtained. The clarity of exposition and the concise rendering of the facts are well-known characteristics of the writer. Lists of references are very complete and it is again most valuable for the busy pathologist to have important review articles indicated for him in heavy type. Professor Willis is to be warmly congratulated on his latest work, and it is hard to see how any pathologist alive to his daily problems will be able to avoid the necessity of having a copy on his shelves.

GEORGE CUNNINGHAM.

Le Cancer de la Corde Vocale. By J. Piquet. (Pp. 204; 53 figures. Fr. fr. 1,600.) Paris: Masson et Cie. 1958.

This monograph on cancer of the vocal cord by Professor Piquet, of Lille, is the latest of an international series on otorhinolaryngological subjects.

The monograph contains chapters on aetiology, pre-cancerous states, pathology, and treatment. The style is somewhat discursive, and references are haphazard and inadequate. In a sketchy chapter on laryngeal and cervical lymphatics, in which just one poor and unlabelled illustration appears, there is the following reference:

"Pour la description classique des lymphatiques du larynx, le lecteur pourra se reporter à l'excellent *Traité d'anatomie de Rouvière*, où la question est traitée dans tous ses détails." (!)

Other references are to obscure sources or simply short quotations from discussions at meetings. A bias towards the Continental literature has occasionally resulted in serious lacunae. For instance, the author claims that telerradium techniques are of little value in the treatment of cancer of the larynx without even mentioning the important contributions and results of Lederman in this country. It is furthermore difficult for the English reader to accept Piquet's recommendations for local anaesthesia in total laryngectomy, but it must be remembered that this is in keeping with still much of Continental practice.

This monograph contains much material of interest. It is only a pity that it is marred by careless references and parochialism.

S. S. EPSTEIN.

Radioisotope Laboratory Techniques. By R. A. Faïres and B. H. Parks. (Pp. xii+244; illustrated. 25s.) London: George Newnes. 1957.

The increasing use of radioactive isotopes in general laboratories has made necessary a simple book providing the essential theory and practice of radioisotope techniques. The authors, with considerable teaching experience of the basic principles at the Harwell isotope school, have attempted to produce such a book, primarily for those with only an elementary knowledge of physics. Consequently, they have been compelled to be selective and have concentrated on practical details of choosing and using equipment, theory being kept to a minimum. Suggestions for further reading are given at the end of most chapters.

The first few chapters deal concisely and clearly with the elements of nuclear physics, the properties of radiations, the production of radio-isotopes, and the calculation of radiation dose rates. The chapters which follow, describing laboratory design, radioactive hazards, decontamination, and laboratory apparatus, contain much useful data and practical advice. The major part of the book, dealing with instrumentation and applications, is, however, not quite so successful. The reader with no knowledge of electronics, for whom this book is intended, would soon get lost in the technicalities of the electronic apparatus described. The authors have condensed the chapter on electronic techniques to the point where the explanation of terms frequently used in later chapters is either omitted or incomprehensible without previous knowledge.

Several chapters are devoted to descriptions of the construction and use of particle and radiation detecting equipment. These chapters are uneven in quality. As an example, the authors describe in great detail the types of gases used in Geiger-Müller counters, but give only a sketchy account of the use of some of these counters with no account at all of the use of liquid counters. Scintillation counters are dealt with inadequately, and the chapter on the choice of counting equipment is too brief. On the other hand, the important subject of the statistics of counting is adequately treated by rule-of-thumb methods.

The final chapters describe briefly some chemical and other applications of radio-isotopes and autoradiography (in rather more detail). No account is given of the use of radioactive tracers in medical or biological work. Although the ideal book for non-technical users of radioisotope techniques remains to be written, this book may be recommended as a useful practical guide to the subject.

M. LUBRAN.

Textbook of Virology, 3rd ed. By A. J. Rhodes and C. E. van Rooyen. (Pp. xv+607; 81 figures. 80s.) London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1958.

This edition, larger by 70 pages, maintains the high standard of presentation of the 1953 edition. It is beautifully printed and well illustrated. The authors'