BOOK REVIEWS

Modern Trends in Pathology. Edited by D. H. Collins. (Pp. x+334+Index; 135 figures. 70s.) London: Butterworth. 1959.

The "Modern Trends" series has reviewed developments in some 20 medical subjects; several have had a second series and one even a third series, but it is only this year that *Modern Trends in Pathology* has appeared: Professor Collins must be congratulated on a work which will demand a second series quite soon. A list of the contributors includes the names of a large proportion of the most distinguished "morbidity anatomists" of this country and two from the U.S.A., but the whole outlook of the book is quite unlike the old-fashioned "morbidity anatomy," and the last paragraph of Sir Roy Cameron's chapter epitomizes this viewpoint.

"Investigations such as these possess the merit of welding together structural and functional observations into a coherent story. And on this note I would wish to end, for I am convinced that the future of pathology lies precisely in this direction."

Although it may be invidious to single out separate chapters for mention, Sir Roy Cameron's "The Injured Cell," Pulvertaft's article on "Examination of Pathological Tissue in a Fresh State," Payling Wright's "Movements of Neurotoxins and Neuroviruses in the Nervous System," Campbell's "Pathological Relationships of 5-Hydroxytryptamine," Symington's "The Human Adrenal Cortex in Disease," and Collins' and Curran's "Pathological Ossification and Osseous Metaplasia in Man" have been to me a particular pleasure to read: but the best recommendation is that the reviewer, whose own daily work is in a somewhat different field, has read the whole book with great interest and stimulation throughout. All the chapters are concerned with actively developing aspects of pathology—and all leave the reader with the feeling that this is exciting work, none of it complete—and all in active development.

It is a book which should be in all libraries of pathology—and all young pathologists will receive very considerable benefit from its use.

E. N. ALLOTT.

Medical Laboratory Investigations: Their Use and Interpretation. By Ian Dawson and William Goldie; Foreword by R. J. V. Pulvertaft. (Pp. xv +260. 35s.) London: Butterworth. 1959.

The value of compendia of medical laboratory investigations varies with the uses for which they are intended. This book represents an attempt to

introduce practising clinicians to the tools of the pathologist. It is quite clear that no senior clinician would consult such a book if he were investigating, say, a fluid and electrolyte balance which is dealt with in a very elementary fashion in three pages. For the junior clinician, however, this is a very brief summary of what he might find, the value of the tests with the normal ranges. On the whole, therefore, this book, taken section by section, is useful for the new house-physician, who must begin to learn in his first post how to use the laboratory and the pathologists. The danger of these books is that the young house-physician will end his interest in pathology at that stage. To prevent this it is essential, as the authors point out, that he should realize that there is no substitute for regular meetings and close co-operation between clinicians and pathologists throughout their years in the hospital. They must learn to use and to integrate each other's disciplines.

A. GORDON SIGNY.

Abnormal Haemoglobins: A Symposium organized by the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (U.N.E.S.C.O.). Edited by J. H. P. Jonxis and J. F. Delafresnaye. (Pp. ix+427; 104 figures. 45s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1959.

In September, 1957, a symposium on abnormal haemoglobins, organized by the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences, was held. This volume reports the proceedings of the meeting, which are of the greatest interest to the biochemist, the geneticist, the haematologist, the general pathologist, the general physician, and the anthropologist. Our present knowledge of abnormal, genetically determined haemoglobins is reviewed both authoritatively and comprehensively.

Haemoglobinopathies clearly play an important role in general health and in infant mortality and malaria mortality rates in many countries. An ever-increasing number of these states is being reported, not only in African and Mediterranean races, but also in other peoples.

The book is well written and illustrated. A section headed "Conclusions" emphasizes that, although great progress has been made in our knowledge of haemoglobinopathies since Pauling and his colleagues discovered sickle-cell haemoglobin in 1949, a vast amount of work remains to be done. The bibliography and the index are comprehensive. This volume is strongly recommended to the wide variety of doctors and scientists interested in this field.

E. K. BLACKBURN.