disorders of man. This has been brought about, in part, by modern therapy which paves the way for opportunistic infections which are often fungal, and also by the description of new mycotic infections, such as subcutaneous phycromycosis.

Each chapter in this book considers the epidemiology of one group of mycotic infections, and there is information on their world distribution, ecological factors for fungal growth and spread, host-parasitic relationships, and some clinical and diagnostic features. The clinical features of *Candida* infections, a common complication of heart surgery and organ transplantation, are described in more detail. The bibliography is extensive and the book will be a valuable reference source for laboratory workers, physicians, and epidemiologists who encounter mycological problems.

M. S. R. HUTT

Studies of the Hypothalamus and the Pituitary Gland. With Special Reference to the Effects of Transection of the Pituitary Stalk. By Peter M. Daniel and Marjorie M. L. Pritchard. (Pp. 216; 104 figures; £3.00.) Oxford: Alden Press. 1975. (First published in 1975 as a Supplement to *Acta Endocrinologica (Copenhagen)*. Suppl 201, accompanying vol 80).

Against a background of their own research over a period of 25 years, and that of their associates, the authors spell out the progress that has been made in our knowledge of the relationship between the hypothalamus and the pituitary gland. The first chapter is wisely devoted to nomenclature.

This monograph should have wide appeal because of the well-conceived chapters on the anatomy of the hypothalamus and the pituitary gland in man and in some animals. For the specialized reader, there is a lucid summary of the more important contributions to literature concerned with lesions, naturally-occurring and experimental, which involve the pituitary stalk. Local and remote effects of its section are considered separately, and the far-reaching implications of the damage are considered from the point of view of potential therapeutic procedures. The authors draw attention to the importance of the hypophyseal portal vessels in specific segments of the neural component of the pituitary gland: two groups of these vessels are now recognized, which is of significance in regard to the secretion of hormones.

There is an extensive bibliography and a useful technical appendix. The varied and plentiful illustrations are of a high order, in keeping with the fine quality of the publication.

W. H. MCMENEMEY

Pathobiology Annual, Volume 5. 1975. Edited by Harry L. Joachim. (Pp. x + 426; illustrated; £18.50.) Hemel Hempstead: Prentice-Hall International. 1975.

This volume is a welcome indication of the catholic approach to pathology with significant blurring of the boundaries between individual disciplines. The articles, all of which are informative and most of which are clearly written and illustrated, range in subject matter from the Morphology of Coronary Artery Disease to an interesting discussion of the Sleep-Dream Cycle. W. M. Thurlbeck contributes a scholarly paper on Lung Growth and Alveolar Multiplication and brings new, if controversial, ideas to the field of disordered lung growth in human disease. There are informative articles, with much new data, on Cancer and Host Defence Mechanisms and on Mechanisms of Tissue Injury in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. If these subjects seem rather obscure the practising clinical pathologist will find them intellectually stimulating and he can gain consolation and practical support from the sections on Haemopoietic Stem Cells by E. K. Cronkite, Cytomegalovirus Pulmonary Disease by J. E. Craighead, and The Pathology of the Liver in Haemochromatosis by L. W. Powell and J. F. R. Kerr. The chapter on the Mode of Action of Steroid Hormones and on Enzymes in Myocardial Infarction will prove of interest to all pathologists and not just to biochemists.

Dr Joachim is to be congratulated on bringing together a distinguished and varied collection of reviews, and one looks forward eagerly to the next Annual—even at this price.

M. S. DUNNILL

Biochemical Tests for Identification of Medical Bacteria. By Jean F. MacFaddin. (Pp. xii + 312; illustrated; \$12.75.) Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins. 1976.

This book contains the methods, media, and biochemical principles of 29 common biochemical tests used for medical bacteria together with illustrations of the un-

inoculated media and of positive and negative reactions. There is also a short account of multitest systems (particularly API and PathoTec), and identification schemes for the various groups of medically important bacteria are presented. This book will inevitably be compared with *Cowan and Steel's Identification of Medical Bacteria* (Cowan, S. T. (1974) 2nd ed. Cambridge University Press) with which it compares unfavourably in the range of tests covered. The present book is not sufficiently comprehensive for a bench manual as many commonly used tests are omitted, for example, starch hydrolysis and ammonium salt sugars, and a great deal of space is wasted by unnecessary descriptions of many varieties of the tests given. There are inaccuracies and omissions throughout the text; for example, taken at random it is stated on page 3 that all pseudomonads give an oxidative reaction in the O/F test, and on page 33 there is no mention of the use of 'chocolate' blood agar in tests for catalase for fastidious organisms.

The identification tables and sequential keys also compare unfavourably with the tables in Cowan and Steel, but the author is to be congratulated on the extremely useful explanations of the biochemical principles underlying each test, and the coloured illustrations may prove useful to those unfamiliar with the tests described.

S. P. LAPAGE

Notice

Platelets: a multidisciplinary approach

An international symposium on Platelets: a Multidisciplinary Approach will be held in Florence on 28-30 September 1977. The aim of this symposium is to focus attention on platelets both as a model in pharmacology, biochemistry, immunology, inflammation, and related fields and as a cell involved in physiopathological phenomena not directly connected with haemostasis and mechanisms of thrombosis.

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