implications; they include molecular probes for human tumour viruses, aspects of the chalone concept, phagocytosis, and tumour blood vessel proliferation in addition to chapters devoted to phagocytosis and transfer amyloidosis.

Each contribution is authoritative and very detailed and will form a sound basis upon which to begin further study. The sections on chalone and vascular proliferation are especially readable and form appraisals of the current state of the art. All chapters abound with references, and it is a pity that a uniform method of their quotation in the text was not adopted. Some illustrations are not as clear or as easy to interpret as most pathologists would wish. This defect, however, may be related more to the quality of the paper and to the printing methods used rather than to the quality of the original print.

A. MUNRO NEVILLE

Clinical Enzymology 1975. Proceedings of a Symposium Organised by the Liverpool Branch of the Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences, September 5th-7th, 1975. (Pp. 93; illustrated; £1.30 to members; £2.30 to non-members.) Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences. 1976.

The contributors to this symposium include some of the well-known names in the field of clinical enzymology. Most of the papers and discussion deal with the problems of methodological standardisation and quality control, and of the standardisation of terminology. Some such problems are reflected in the many different names and abbreviations used by the speakers for the same enzymes. The non-expert will be confirmed in his reluctance to make further moves towards standardisation of methods (for instance, of the temperatures used) until the dust settles: inflicting the change to SI units on clinicians is one thing, but frequently altering enzyme values, which are still reported in so-called 'international' units, is quite another, especially as this does not guarantee uniformity between laboratories.

Clinical applications are dealt with only in passing, but the wind of change in clinical biochemistry is reflected in the lively discussion on the pros and cons of multichannel analysis that followed the apparently innocuous paper on radio-metric methods.

More stringent editing might have made some of the papers and discussions more readable. However, the booklet provides a good introduction to the current technical problems in clinical enzymology.

JOAN F. ZILVA

Blood and its Diseases. By I. Chanarin, Milica Brozović, Elizabeth Tidmarsh, and D. A. W. Waters. (Pp. v + 250; illustrated; £4.50.) Edinburgh, London and New York: Churchill Livingstone. 1976.

The authors set out to cover the field of haematology in some depth. Within the limits of the space available, and when complemented by a book on technique, they meet the needs of medical laboratory scientists for HNC examinations and of doctors for the primary examination of the Royal College of Pathologists.

A section on physiology is followed by a consideration of diseased states, including useful sections on the blood in systemic disease, pregnancy and infancy; on thrombosis and its management; and on transfusion problems. There is no single chapter on the effects of drugs on the blood, but adequate coverage is given within the various sections, and there is an index. A chapter on organisation and management in the haematology department is brief but contains some good advice. The price is reasonable, and the diagrams are clear. A list of recommended reference books has some surprising omissions.

J. O. P. EDGCUMBE

Notice

New IUIS/WHO International Standard for FITC labelled sheep antihuman immunoglobulin

The Standardisation Committee of the International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS) is pleased to be able to inform workers using immunofluorescence techniques that the Director General of the World Health Organization has, on the advice of its Expert Committee on Biological Standardisation, accepted the IUIS fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC) labelled sheep antihuman immunoglobulin for the demonstration of antibodies in human serum as a World Health Organization International Standard. The material is intended to be used for the assessment by comparative immunofluorescence assay of the potency and quality of similar national and laboratory conjugates. Ampoules of this standard are available from the Immunology Unit, World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland. The number of ampoules available to an individual laboratory must be strictly limited but the standard will be dispatched in response to a letter from the scientist describing the purpose for which it is to be used.