The above conversion factors have been rounded-off to facilitate conversion while retaining the degree of significance of the original results.

NOMENCLATURE OF ISOENZYMES

The discovery that a particular type of enzyme activity may apparently be associated with more than one protein and the diagnostic implications of this finding have resulted in an increasing number of references to these multiple molecular forms of enzymes (variously described as isoenzymes or isozymes) in the literature of chemical pathology. The lactate dehydrogenase (L.D.H.) activity of human tissues, for example, is made up of various proportions of five L.D.H. isoenzymes which are distinguishable by electrophoretic or other means.

In the absence of any officially agreed system of nomenclature, some degree of confusion has arisen in the numbering of these L.D.H. fractions; some workers designate the most rapidly anode-migrating isoenzyme $L.D._1$ and the electrophoretically slowest $L.D._5$, while the reverse convention is followed in other publications. The Standing Committee on Enzymes of the International Union of Biochemistry is now attempting to formulate a standard nomenclature which, it is hoped, will shortly be published. Until its report is available, authors should state clearly which convention of isoenzyme numbering they are following.

References to the methods and units discussed can be found in King, E. J., and Campbell, D. M. (1961). *Clin. chim. Acta*, **6**, 301. Report of Commission on Enzymes of International Union of Biochemistry (1961). Pergamon Press, Oxford.

The suggestions set out above for expressing enzymes in international units and on nomenclature for isoenzymes are recommended and approved by the Technical Methods Committee and the Committee on Chemical Pathology of the Association of Clinical Pathologists.

The late E. J. KING
D. W. MOSS

CORRECTION

In the Discussion in the paper 'Urea distribution in renal failure' by Blackmore *et al.* (*J. clin. Path.*, 1963, **16**, 235) the formula on efficiency index in the footnote should read:—

$$\text{Efficiency index} = 100\left[\frac{U_c - U_0}{U_c}\right]$$

Book reviews

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF EXPERIMENTAL PATHOLOGY, Vol. I. Edited by G. W. Richter and M. A. Epstein. (Pp. x + 453; illustrated. 107*s.* 6*d.*) New York and London: Academic Press. 1962.

Despite the current proliferation of scientific periodicals of all types, there has been a remarkable absence of any review, annual or otherwise, devoted to progress in pathology.

This serious deficiency has now been met by the Academic Press with an International Review of Experimental Pathology which is to appear annually. If the first volume is any guide, the series is likely to prove of the highest value. Volume I contains long articles on antibody production, arteriolar hyalinosis, the electron microscopy of damaged glomeruli, common cold viruses, radiation-induced bone disease, and cellular interactions in histogenesis. All these sections have been prepared with care by recognized authorities working actively in their field, and the standard is extremely high. The book is indeed worth reading from cover to cover and any comparisons between the authors seems uncalled for. The reviewer did, however, particularly enjoy the contributions of Nossal and Tyrrell on antibodies and coryzal viruses respectively. Some chapters, *e.g.*, on electron microscopy, are based entirely on recent observations. In others, *e.g.*, that on arteriolar hyalinosis, the discussion has its basis deep in the roots of pathology, in the controversies between Virchow and Rokitansky. It is this section by Pierre Dustin that reveals how heavily even an apparently well-defined morphological change relies upon experimentation to make it at all comprehensible. Almost everything that we understand, will understand, or think we understand in pathology is based on experimental observations.

The volume is well produced and is warmly recommended to all who have an interest in the study of disease.

W. G. SPECTOR

DISEASES OF PORPHYRIN METABOLISM By A. Goldberg and C. Rimington. (Pp. xvi + 231; 38 figures; 19 plates. 82*s.* 6*d.*) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1962.

This volume makes a welcome addition to the American Lecture Series. The two authors are both recognized authorities on the subject from their special aspects and the combination of clinical and scientific data has been presented in a most interesting and informative way. The important recent advances which have been made both in the classification and in the biochemistry of the porphyrias makes the book particularly welcome at the present time.

The outlook is unusually wide since chapters are included on subjects such as the history, classification, and geographical distribution of porphyria, and also on experimental and natural porphyria in animals. For the clinician or biochemist the information given on the