

Syndromes Nouveaux de Pathologie Adipeuse. By William A. Blanc. 1951. Paris: Masson & Cie. With 84 text figures. Pp. 256. Price Fr. Fr. 1,200.

In the introduction to this book the author suggests that little attention has been paid to the problem of fat necrosis. The first chapter deals with the anatomy and physiology of adipose tissue and the second with experimental work on subcutaneous and intravenous injection of fats. Two chapters are then devoted to fat necrosis, both focal and diffuse, and the various disease syndromes which it produces. The fundamental local lesion progresses from necrosis and cyst formation to laminated hyalinization and perhaps calcification. Phagocytosis of the fat from the dead cell by histiocytes and its deposition at a distance, where it acts as a foreign body, is the mode of spread of the lesions. The author considers that humoral protein imbalance is a factor in the production of progressive liposclerosis. In the last chapter he discusses the interrelationship of all connective tissue diseases, and suggests that the pathological changes in liposclerosis are similar to those in amyloid disease and other disturbances of protein metabolism.

This is an exhaustive study of the pathology of fatty tissue, and much of the monograph is repetitive, particularly the chapters on fat necrosis. The photographs also tend to show the same repetitive quality. A long classification of fat necrosis is given, which the author considers incomplete, and descriptions of the lesions are repeated much too often. In some cases the description suggests that changes in the fatty tissue are merely part of a diffuse polyarteritis, and at one point the author admits the possibility of primary vascular disease followed by necrosis of the surrounding fat. A further criticism of this book is that, although the title is *Syndromes Nouveaux de Pathologie Adipeuse*, most of the syndromes were described many years ago, some even last century.

M. GILLESPIE.

Foetal and Neonatal Pathology. By J. Edgar Morison. 1951. London: Butterworth & Co., Ltd. 1st edit., with 59 illustrations. Pp. 366. Price 50s.

In this new book the author attempts to interrelate perinatal pathology and physiology. The limitations of our present knowledge on these subjects are well brought out in a critical review of the relevant literature. The author's personal experience is skilfully interwoven, usually in tabulated form. This is not a textbook of descriptive pathology, but the reader will find it a useful reference book which will render the search of the widely scattered literature a much easier task and this is particularly helped by emphasizing in capital letters the more valuable references in the bibliography.

It is to be hoped that this book will stimulate further research on many of its important subject matters: it may for instance help to guide into more useful fields such futile attempts as the study of prematurity in terms of a pathological entity. It is also hoped that the author may overcome in later editions his present difficulties in the classification of some conditions such as are evident when he includes "congenital short oesophagus" among "Hirschsprung's disease and allied disorders."

The publishers are to be congratulated on taking the initiative in this country with the production of a book on a much neglected subject.

MARTIN BODIAN.

Cross Reference.—Dr. Fairfield Smith, who wrote a paper "Urea Clearance Tests" for this Journal (*J. clin. Path.*, 1949, 2, 266), has published an amplification of his statistical appendix in *Biometrics* (1951, 7, 185).

Correction.—In "The Question of the Rh Hapten" (*J. clin. Path.*, 1951, 4, 475), Table VIII, column 2, in the first two sera the upper line refers to the saline control and the second line in each pair refers to lecithin 1:4,000.
