Few books at the present time deal specifically with the problem of quantitative micro- and ultramicro-analysis for hospital laboratories and this is a welcome arrival in this field. It can be recommended especially to the attention of pathologists and biochemists connected with paediatric units.

W. H. R. AULD.

The Chemistry of Blood Coagulation. By Paul Morawitz; translated by Robert C. Hartmann and Paul F. Guenther. (Pp. x+194. 34s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications; Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1958.

The translation of this classical monograph is the most recent of the American Lecture Series and is a distinguished addition. The monograph is of much more than merely historical interest, for a good deal that is "new" in this field to-day is clearly the expansion, development, or modification of hypotheses initially explored by the great investigators of the past. This monograph presents an absorbing review of their work in the field of blood coagulation in the late nineteenth and early part of this century. The authors have, therefore, performed a useful practical service to those engaged in haematology to-day. Many unlikely to read the original text in German will find in the translation a welcome ease of assimilation, for the authors have achieved an imperceptible translation of a truly remarkable review of a very complex subject; remarkable in that the subsequent great developments in this field should so enhance the reputation of the original author. A publication of this kind has a general educative value and the publishers hope that the translation will appeal, among others, to the medical student; but the pressures in modern medicine which restrict the student's general education in other directions are likely to operate here also, and educated physicians become less numerous as time goes on. It is to be hoped that this translation will meet with the acceptance it has earned, and that it will be read by at least those who practise haematology. There is an extensive bibliography.

H. E. HUTCHISON.

'Analar' Standards for Laboratory Chemicals, 5th ed. revised. (Pp. xvi+397. 21s.) Formulated and issued jointly by the British Drug Houses Ltd. and Hopkin and Williams Ltd. London: Eyre and Spottiswoode. 1957.

The two firms which independently produce and market "Analar" chemicals first published this handbook on their products in 1934. In it they defined their standards of purity for each compound, and described in detail how the purity of these chemicals could be checked. In this new edition a number of reagents appear for the first time, the text has been generally reviewed and improved, and in general the preparation of the book is in keeping with the good reputation enjoyed by the firms. One notes, however, that with some of their compounds only a small proportion of the total impurities present are given, e.g.,

sodium bismuthate is guaranteed 83% pure, yet the only impurities listed (chloride and manganese) total 0.01%.

The book serves as a useful record of the main properties of the substances described and could be used for reference in qualitative and quantitative analysis. Some of the tests are original and all have apparently been the subject of extended experiment in the analytical laboratories of the manufacturers. The appendix contains notes on the preparation of a large number of test reagents, indicator solutions, standard solutions, etc.

W. H. R. AULD.

Transactions of the American Goiter Association 1956. (Pp. xiii + 473; illustrated. £6 6s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications; Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1957.

This book contains the 38 papers given to the 1956 meeting of the American Goiter Society with the discussions to each. All except seven of these have been published either in *The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism* or in *Endocrinology*. Naturally the rapid increase in knowledge of the thyroid hormones and thyroiditis would call for some changes now, but there are many points of all-round interest.

Thyroid preparations from swine are common only twice as potent as from cattle. Goitrous sheep used to be common but have almost disappeared as a result of feeding iodized salt.

Cobalt exerts a direct effect on the thyroid cell characterized by simultaneous inhibition of endocrine function and increased phosphorus uptake. A narrow range of cobalt dosage may be a critical factor in goitrogenesis.

Patients with hyperthyroidism are hardly ever alcoholics. Rats made hyperthyroid have a decreased appetite for alcohol, an increased appetite for stock diet and sugars, and an increased thirst for plain water.

PBI¹³¹ studies suggest that children up to 4 years of age are in a state of thyroid "hyperactivity" when compared with euthyroid adults.

An iodinated substance, compound X, has been found in the serum of some patients with cancer of the thyroid; it is similar in all cases studied.

In the diagnosis of hyperparathyroidism demonstration of subnormal tubular reabsorption of phosphate (T.R.P.) is of value. On a low-phosphate diet the serum calcium level is increased to a greater extent and T.R.P. to a lesser extent than in normal individuals.

Tri- and tetra-iodothyroacetic acid give an immediate response in cases of myxoedema; it ceases within 24 hours. Thyroxine elicits little or no response within 24 hours. This suggests that the acetic acid analogues are the form in which thyroid hormone acts in tissues.

Cretinism has many causes. Simplest is congenital absence of the thyroid. Symptoms are not as severe in patients with aberrantly located fragments of