a fair prospect of satisfaction if they have a taste for intricate chemical details or the rarefied atmosphere of the biological side of cancer research.

There is a rather scrappy index which makes no attempt to list author's names, and some of the illustrations could do with better quality paper, but tables and diagrams are well produced and the book can be handled with ease. But why, in Heaven's name, were the illustrations numbered consecutively in each separate chapter?

ROY CAMERON

CANCER: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DELAY By Robert Sutherland. (Pp. ix + 206 + Index. 30s.) London: Butterworth. 1960.

In this book, Dr. Sutherland covers a much wider field than its title might suggest. The work comprises a comprehensive review and a critical examination of the literature dealing with the many factors which influence the course of malignant disease. After a short introductory chapter and a consideration of the difficulties inherent in 'grading' and 'staging', the author discusses prognostic variables dependent on (1) tumour characteristics, (2) host characteristics, and (3) environment. The final chapter deals with the relationship between the duration of a tumour (before treatment) and prognosis. While conceding the tremendous importance of factors at present outside our control and admitting that benefit from earlier treatment appears to be modest, Dr. Sutherland shows that some lives are undoubtedly saved or prolonged by early diagnosis and therapy. He therefore rightly concludes that 'since earlier treatment may mean life instead of death for some, we must do everything we can to ensure that it is given to all.'

Dr. Sutherland has produced a most valuable review and his book contains much to interest clinicians, pathologists, and research workers. A useful additional feature is the summary at the end of each chapter.

N. F. C. GOWING

SECTION CUTTING IN MICROSCOPY By H. F. Steedman. (Pp. viii + 172; 70 figures. 20s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1960.

This book is by a zoologist whose interest in serial sectioning and the handling of difficult tissues led him to pursue the use of the ester waxes. Dr. Steedman's own work on these waxes is now widely quoted, and for special purposes their use should certainly be known to pathologists; the book is therefore one to have in any laboratory blessed with a keen technician. Some of the information will seem beside the point; we cannot feed our patients pre-operatively with the blotting paper he gives to the worms he means to study, but there is much of interest in the whole field of microtomy. It is unfortunate that a sharper distinction is not made between Celloidin, a trade name for a nitrocellulose of moderately high viscosity, and the modern low viscosity nitrocelluloses; nor is it made clear that the latter have a horny hardness when dry which demands the addition of high boiling-point solvents (plasticizers) such as dibutyl phthalate (misspelt throughout the book). His attitude to the polyethylene glycol waxes is unduly nihilistic in

view of some of the results demonstrated by British dental pathologists, but elsewhere, whether it be about embedding in polymerized synthetic resins or frozen section techniques, there is an attention to detail and an enthusiasm that is pleasantly infectious. One odd little chapter advocates an independent professorial department of microtomy; maybe we need such a thing but a good technician and this book will at least do some good now.

ALAN LENDRUM

EINFÜHRUNG IN DIE BLUTMORPHOLOGIE (Introduction to the Morphology of Blood) By D. Schreiber. (Pp. 69; 27 colour plates. DM 17.30.) Leipzig: Georg Thieme. 1960.

This is a book which, though published in 1960, does not reach the accepted standards of modern practises in haematology. There are far better atlases, published in earlier part of the century, which gave as much useful information. The first pages on the preparation of smears from marrow are poor, and many of the illustrations are bizarre. These atlases can only be useful if they show real and accurate reproductions of actual marrow smears, rather than highly selective drawings. The only value of this book is that it is written in three languages—German, Russian, and English—and this does give the beginner a glimpse of German and Russian scientific language.

A. GORDON SIGNY

THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF MEDICINE; ANNUAL REVIEWS 1961. (Pp. xi + 342; illustrated. 40s.) Published for the British Postgraduate Medical Federation by The Athlone Press, London. 1961.

This is the latest volume in the series which used to be called 'Lectures on the scientific basis of medicine'. In addition to a new title a further change is the inclusion of an index which covers all the earlier volumes and which is to be continued in future issues as a cumulative index to the whole series.

This annual selection of lectures arranged by the British Postgraduate Medical Federation has already gained a secure place in the regard of many people with a lively interest in the development of medical science, and the present volume maintains the standard of its predecessors. It will go far to enlighten those of us who, although we may be aware that important things have been happening in this field or in that, have but the haziest idea of what those advances have been. The variety of subjects reviewed is wide indeed and to mention a few, there are papers by Dame Janet Vaughan on skeletal damage by bone-seeking isotopes, by A. Isaacs on interferon, by C. H. Gray on non-pancreatic aspects of diabetes, by W. R. S. Doll on epidemiological methods in leukaemia research, by E. M. Vaughan Williams on the action of certain drugs on the heart, and by R. H. S. Thompson on the biochemistry of multiple sclerosis.

It is difficult to select certain of these for specific mention and the items chosen will probably represent either a particular interest on the part of the reviewer or a particular awareness of his ignorance and a conse-

quent gratitude for its relief. I particularly liked C. E. Dalglish's exposition of certain biochemical lesions and Sir George Pickering's stimulating account of recent work on pyrogens and fever: but all these lectures are authoritative discussions of their subjects. The first and last lectures are unlike the rest in that they are not concerned with some one field of research. The book begins with a lecture by Sir Lindor Brown on 'Physiology, medicine, and the basic sciences' and ends with Sir Roy Cameron's lecture on 'The adventure of research'. Both are delightful pieces of writing and if, as Sir James Paterson Ross says in the preface, one of the objects of the new style of presentation is to interest a wider audience, these two memorable contributions should go a long way to help.

F. HAMPSON

BILE PIGMENTS IN HEALTH AND DISEASE. By C. H. Gray. (Pp. x + 101; 18 figures. 40s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1961.

This slim volume gives in a brief and easily comprehensible manner, the current state of the knowledge of bile pigment metabolism in relation to human pathology. In the first chapter there is an introduction to the chemical structure, nomenclature, and reactions of the bile pigments. This is followed in chapter 2 by a summary of the chemistry of haemoglobin breakdown. The bulk of the book is concerned with an historical presentation of recent work on the biosynthesis of the bile pigments, and on the separation of the conjugated and unconjugated bilirubin pigments in the blood, with the consequent elucidation of the nature of the Van den Bergh reactions. The last chapters give brief, but clear, discussions of the methods of estimation of bile pigments in blood and urine, and the findings in patients with jaundice. The exciting advances in this field are described with a clarity and economy of language which makes the book very readable. The general production of the book is good, and the printing, figures, and diagrams clear. There is also a good index.

This book is not intended for an expert in this field of chemistry, but will prove of great interest and value to those who have a general interest in bile pigment metabolism.

M. G. RINSLER

MODERN TRENDS IN UROLOGY, 2nd series Edited by Sir Eric Riches. (Pp. xvi + 287 + Index; 286 figures. 70s.) London: Butterworth. 1960.

Urology is certainly a progressive speciality. When the first series of 'Modern Trends in Urology' was published a few years ago the subjects with which it dealt were predominantly such as would be of interest to a urological surgeon only. In the second series which has just been published both general medicine and pathology have a larger place and clinical pathologists will note with special interest the chapters on renal biopsy, tumours of the renal pelvis and ureter, tumours of the adrenal gland, and new growths of the testis. Moreover, pathology, and biochemistry have successfully infiltrated into many of the other chapters though written by clinicians or surgeons.

This second series, like the first, has been edited by Sir Eric Riches, who, though himself an eminent and skilful urological surgeon, has always welcomed and encouraged pathologists and biochemists to 'make themselves at home' in urology.

CUTHBERT DUKES

PATHOGENESIS AND TREATMENT OF CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASE Edited by William S. Fields. (Pp. xii + 562; illustrated. 120s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas; Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1961.

This elegantly produced volume records the papers and discussions at the Seventh Annual Scientific Meeting of the Houston Neurological Society held in March 1959 at the Texas Medical Centres.

Chapters of some interest to pathologists are those on Embryology and Anatomy (H. A. Kaplan), The Natural History of Atherosclerosis (R. L. Holman and J. Moossey), Pathology of Intracerebral Haemorrhage (C. M. Fisher), Cerebral Aneurysms (D. E. Smith and R. B. Windsor), and Subarachnoid Haemorrhage (O. T. Bailey). In addition there are surveys of biochemical aspects (A. C. Griffin) and of problems of thrombosis and blood coagulation (C. A. Owens, Jr. and J. H. Thompson, Jr.). The last of these begins with a statement that will cause many eyebrows to rise: 'A thrombus by definition is a clot'!

On the whole these pathological chapters are not pitched at a high level. They are clearly intended as a mere introduction to the clinical matters that follow, and, regrettably, much of their content is already out of date. It seems unlikely that many will consider the volume worth the very high price quoted.

T. CRAWFORD

THE ADRENAL CORTEX Edited by G. K. McGowan and M. Sandler. (Pp. xii + 226; illustrated. 25s.) London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. 1961.

This work is well described on the title page as chemical pathology in relation to clinical medicine. It is the proceedings of a symposium organized by the Association of Clinical Pathologists. It is worthy of publication because it gives a good view of the adrenal cortex in relation to clinical medicine. Naturally, the picture is not complete, but no symposium can ever cover all the ground and the decision as to what to include and what to leave out is not an easy one. The Chairman, Professor C. H. Gray, and the two Organizing Secretaries, who also edited the publication, are to be congratulated on their choice of material. The work will make valuable reading both for the pathologist and for the physician. As the Chairman says in his preface, it was intended to provide an up-to-date account of the chemical pathology of the adrenal cortex rather than a forum for discussion between experts in the field. The first papers are described as chemical pathology and deal with the structure of the gland in relation to hormone production, the chemistry and physiology of the hormones produced by the gland, and various aspects of the determination of the hormones and their metabolites in urine. This is followed by a