Book reviews

PRINCIPLES OF PATHOLOGY INCLUDING BACTERIOLOGY, 2nd ed. By R. A. Willis. (XIV+689+30; 288 figures. 75s.) London: Butterworth. 1961.

This textbook is designed to meet the need of the undergraduate student for 'a comprehensive outline of pathology expounded from its general principles, and without that artificial and repetitive subdivision of the subject into 'general' and 'special' parts which is still customary'. The arrangement is therefore in terms of causation of disease, rather than body tissues and organs. The new edition differs from the first mainly in that the accounts of micro-organisms and the diseases they produce have been considerably expanded.

It is remarkable how much has been compressed into a volume of still quite manageable proportions. There are at least a few lines on even the rarest of lesions and organisms, including fungi and animal parasites as well as bacteria and viruses. Inevitably, however, something had to be sacrificed, and epidemiology and chemical pathology receive very little attention.

This volume may find its public amongst those students who wish their reading reduced to the barest minimum; it is unlikely to attract the more adventurous student, who should be able to accept fuller and less didactic accounts from specialists in the main subdivisions of pathology.

T. CRAWFORD

PATHOLOGY OF THE FETUS AND INFANT, 2nd ed. By Edith L. Potter. (Pp. xviii+670; 681 figures. \$22.00., 165s.) Chicago: Year Book Publishers. London: Interscience Publishers.

During the past 10 years 'Pathology of the Fetus and Newborn' by Edith Potter has probably become the most widely used book on the pathology of the newborn. From the outset this book has been well known for its excellent photographs and they have been a constant delight to all of us who work in this field. This book was not, and was not intended to be, a reference book of neonatal pathology. It was a record of the remarkable material and experience of an equally remarkable woman in Chicago. When rumours came that a new edition was coming out of this book, my own reaction was that of wondering how Dr. Potter could possibly improve on her illustrations and to hope that she would not eliminate too many.

The new edition in form and appearance shows superficially very little change from the earlier edition. The title of the book has been changed, the 'newborn' has become the 'infant' and diseases of the first year of life are included. Most of the earlier photographs have been retained and large sections of the text have not been altered.

The section on causes of foetal and infant death has been rewritten and expanded and she gives a useful coded classification of causes of foetal and neonatal deaths which could easily be adapted for routine use in any obstetric unit. The chapter on prematurity has been eliminated which is in line with the present practice of not treating

the small infant as being necessarily abnormal. The section on infections has been expanded and a chapter on inborn errors of metabolism included. There is an extended range of photographs of conjoined twins, including an anencephalus with two faces and fusion of heads!

The discussion on 'hyaline-like membrane' suggests that Dr. Potter has a sneaking suspicion that oxygen is a more dangerous drug than is usually appreciated. There is a new chapter on diseases of the pancreas. She discusses the question of giant cell changes in the liver at some length but refrains from giving her own opinion.

In general, sections of the book not mentioned above, have not been essentially altered but each section has recent additions to the bibliography. My own regret is that Dr. Potter has not made more critical comments on the literature and added a few more of her own opinions to the text.

That there are considerable gaps in the book should not however deter anyone from purchasing this book. In some ways its appearances are misleading. There is a tendency to consider any book with so many clinical photographs as this as being a 'picture book' but each section has a well-balanced bibliography which has been brought up to date in this edition. This, combined with the photographs and clearly written text, will usually guide the general pathologist where he needs to go.

The question that the reviewer must ask himself is, Does this book show sufficient difference from the previous edition to merit buying at the price of £8 5s.? My recommendations are: If you have not got the first edition, then get this one; if you have the first edition, perhaps it would be as well to await the third edition.

JOHN L. EMERY

RENAL BIOPSY: CLINICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

A Ciba Foundation Symposium. (Pp. xii+395 including index of authors and subject index. Richly illustrated, with many tables. 60s.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1961.

The Ciba Foundation symposia and colloquia are well known and this addition to the collection continues a tradition of excellence. Like others in the series it consists of a number of papers followed by verbatim records of discussion between notable personages, this time in the world of nephrology.

Although the title suggests a rather narrow field, the contents in fact give the reader a broad view of the present stage of knowledge and speculation on the nephrotic syndrome, Bright's disease, pyelonephritis, and acute anuria. In most of the papers there is a well illustrated account of the lesions revealed by electron microscopy as well as many excellent photomicrographs from the light microscope.

Since the discussions show clearly that even this group of distinguished investigators are at times far from agreement, it is not possible to bring forward any factual