are admirably reproduced up to the usual Elsevier standard. This volume will appeal to workers interested in the modern trends in the protein field.

J. KOHN

CURRENT CONCEPTS IN HYPOTHYROIDISM Edited by K. R. Crispell. (Pp. v + 194; illustrated. 55s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1963.

This book collects in 13 chapters, written by 27 authors, some specialized aspects of hypothyroidism. Professor Crispell, the Editor, makes it clear that it is not comprehensive and though the thoughts may be 'current' they are not necessarily new. The specialist in the field will already have absorbed much that is contained in this review from the literature of the last decade. Others will find individual chapters, such as the succinct review by Smart and Owen of the relationship between thyroiditis and hypothyroidism, a valuable résumé of the present position of a field which commands everyone's attention, while Marvin Sachs contributes a most interesting chapter on cholesterol metabolism in hypothyroidism with special reference to the effects of the thyroxin analogues. His chapter reiterates the interesting observation of Pitts and Man in 1950 that in myxoedematous patients under treatment the cholesterol levels may return to normal before such values as the P.B.I. have altered appreciably, suggesting a dissociation of individual effects. Chapters on iodine metabolism by Stanbury and his colleagues and the metabolism of thyroid hormone by Braverman and Ingbar, could be read with advantage by student and postgraduate alike. It is this diversity that makes the correct positioning of the book in the pattern of medical literature so difficult to assess. It is neither a survey of recent advances nor a consideration of established work. Beautifully produced, as one might expect as a product of Pergamon Press, it will no doubt find its way to many library shelves where much of the content will be dated in a decade.

NICHOLAS H. MARTIN

DISEASES TRANSMITTED FROM ANIMALS TO MAN Edited by Thomas G. Hull. (Pp. xxii + 967; illustrated. \$17.75). Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

This book, now its fifth edition, describes the epidemiology and, to a less extent, the pathology of animal diseases that can affect man. The book is in three main sections, the first dealing with diseases principally affecting domestic animals, and the second the diseases of wild animals; the third section is a synthesis in which the significance of animals as sources and vectors of human disease is discussed. Bacterial and virus diseases naturally take the greatest space, but there are also chapters on fungi and larger parasites and on diseases produced by inanimate chemical agents in animal products.

Most of the diseases are discussed in considerable detail; thus, tuberculosis has 77 pages, plague 61, the viral encephalitides 43, and listeriosis and rabies about 30 each. The general plan of each chapter is to describe first the aetiological agent (though not usually in sufficient detail to guide laboratory diagnosis) and then to give an account of the disease, first in animals and then in man. Though the pathology of the diseases

receives mention, the greatest attention is given to epidemiology—both prevalence and mode of spread. In general the emphasis is on the situation in the United States but there are notable exceptions, such as the chapters on tuberculosis and plague, which have a world-wide view.

The epidemiological discussions are well supported by facts and figures and there is useful citation of the original literature, although the lists of references at the end of most chapters lack the titles of the papers. There are few references to papers published after 1960.

Thirty-two authors have contributed to this revision, 10 have medical qualifications and of the remainder many are veterinarians. The number of authors has the inevitable consequence that the chapters vary greatly in presentation and readability; some are altogether too diffuse and would profit from much tighter editing. The production of the book, and the illustrations are of a high standard, though marred by a number of misprints.

Altogether the book provides a great deal of information and serves as a valuable guide to the literature of the zoonoses.

R. E. O. WILLIAMS

INFECTION IN HOSPITALS Epidemiology and Control Edited by R. E. O. Williams and R. A. Shooter. (Pp. xviii + 355; illustrated. 52s. 6d.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1963.

This book is a comprehensive report of a seminar held at the Wright Fleming Institute, St. Mary's Hospital, London, in September 1962. All the papers given at this seminar and the discussions following their presentation are fully reported. This book will prove not only a valuable record of the conference, which was attended by representatives of 26 countries from all over the world, but also a useful reference book which brings into one cover a mass of material that up to date has only been reported in the countries of origin.

It deals principally with the epidemiology of hospital infection but contains sections on preventive measures which can be taken in the fields of design, organization and practice of the various departments in the general hospital. While the presentation is naturally somewhat biased towards the problem as seen by the bacteriologists, there is material for thought by clinicians, planners, and heads of departments. In the library of any of these it will form an excellent companion volume to the treatise on hospital infection published in 1960 by Williams, Blowers, Garrod, and Shooter.

STEPHEN MACKENZIE

THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF MEDICINE Annual Reviews, 1963 Edited by the British Postgraduate Medical Federation. (Pp. ix + 339; illustrated. 40s.) University of London: The Athlone Press. 1963.

This volume consists of 20 lectures given under the auspices of the British Postgraduate Federation in the winter session October 1961/62. It is the eleventh volume of the series aimed at enlightening the young postgraduate. One has learnt to look forward to the publication of these reviews with pleasure. The organisers of the course have always been catholic in their choice of subject, but their lectures are chosen with such skill that

each chapter may be read and enjoyed independently by anyone with a minimum of scientific training. If, from the lectures in this volume the reviewer selects some for special mention, this must not be deemed to reflect on the quality or interest of others. Of those with an anatomical bias, some six in number, the one on the blood supply of the pituitary gland by Professor Daniel and on the detailed anorectal anatomy by Professor Walls must be of interest to specialists in these fields. Feldberg, in a lecture with a deceptive title, summarizes much of his work on the pharmacology of the brain in the last decade. Of particular interest is the section dealing with the nature and localized effect of large and small doses of tubocurarine. The 'seizure discharge' associated with large doses resembles in many respects the manifestations of epileptic attacks. Dr. Billing in her review of bile pigment metabolism deals in detail with the processes within the liver cell. In view of the increasing number of icterogenic drugs on the market, this is a timely review. Magnesium metabolism, of increasing interest to physicians and surgeons alike, is well dealt with by Dr. MacIntyre, while Professor Wootton devotes a chapter to the painstaking work he has carried out on the intermediaries of tyrosine in phenylalanine metabolism which can be identified in the dialysate from persons treated suffering from advanced renal failure treated by renal dialysis. This study is clearly a baseline from which much interest and illuminating work may flow.

The publication is of the high standard one would expect from the Athlone Press but that even Jove must nod is evidenced by the extraordinary misprint on page 201. At 40/- this book is remarkable value.

NICHOLAS H. MARTIN

BONE METABOLISM IN RELATION TO CLINICAL MEDICINE.

Proceedings of a Symposium organized by the Association of Clinical Pathologists and the Association of Clinical Biochemists held in London at the Royal College of Surgeons, September 28-29, 1962. Ed. H. A. Sissons. (Pp. 129. 15s.) London: Pitman Medical Publ. Co. 1963.

The symposium consisted of 12 communications, as follows:—Microscopic structure of bone in relation to formation, absorption and mineralization (Sissons); the applied physiology of bone, mainly the chemical physiology (Fourman); A critical appraisal of the methods of diagnosis in metabolic bone disease (Anderson); The histological diagnosis of metabolic bone disease and the appropriate techniques of microscopic examination (Ball); The technical methods of determining calcium levels in serum and their reliability (MacIntyre); The theoretical basis and the significance of phosphatase estimations (King and Moss); The techniques of calcium balance studies and in particular the organization of a metabolic ward (Walker and Judith Collins); The methods available and the techniques of using isotopes in the study of bone minerals (Fraser, Belcher, and Robinson); A clinical account of osteomalacia and rickets (Dent); The chemical physiology of renal osteodystrophy (Stanbury); The investigation of patients with renal stones (Harrison and Still); and finally the definition, recognition and pathogenesis of osteoporosis (Nordin).

Throughout the symposium the stress is on the practical applications in the diagnosis and management of patients. The papers are all brief, clear and to the point, and are followed by appropriate references. This should be a practical and useful guide to anyone interested in metabolic bone disease.

C. V. HARRISON

DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF RADIOACTIVE POISONING

Proc. Scientific Meeting, Vienna, 15-18th Oct. 1962 jointly org. by W.H.O. and I.A.E.A. (Pp. 450; illustrated).

One thing to be said for the use of radioactive substances is that they bring together a remarkable diversity of scientists from different disciplines and nationalities. 'Diagnosis and treatment of radioactive poisoning' is another product of that fertile union, W.H.O. and I.A.E.A.

The chief value of the papers and discussions is as a guide to the quite complex physiology of the elements radium, strontium, the rare earths, and plutonium. The pathological effects, which are in some ways more straightforward, receive less attention but include a good description of the cases of the Marshallese fishermen. One section is devoted to the relevant methods of measuring radioactivity in the body and in biological samples: other papers deal with treatment, in particular the removal of radioactive metals by chelation or other methods.

Few of us, one hopes, can expect to see cases to which this information is relevant but many with a marginal interest will find something of value in these pages.

H. E. M. KAY

AN ATLAS OF VASCULAR RINGS AND RELATED MALFORMATIONS OF THE AORTIC ARCH SYSTEM By James R. Stewart, Owings W. Kincaid, and Jesse E. Edwards. (Pp. xi + 171; 216 figures. \$10.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

The vascular rings referred to in the title of this atlas are defined as malformations of the aortic arch system capable of interfering with the function of the trachea and oesophagus, while the related malformations are those not fulfilling the latter part of that definition. Surely 'An atlas of malformations of the aortic arch system' would have been a tidier title and would have meant the same.

First there is a brief account of the development of the arch system: next a classification based on the development and depending on the persistence of embryonic vascular segments which normally regress: and finally, forming the major part of the volume, accounts of numerous examples of the many different varieties of malformation. Even those varieties which theoretically could occur, but which have never been reported, are included.

As befits an atlas, the text is commendably brief while the illustrations are profuse. They consist mainly of splendidly clear annotated black and white photographs of anatomical dissections, x-ray pictures, and line diagrams.

The book is beautifully produced and carries a full bibliography. It will undoubtedly be of great interest and