have not the time to peruse the larger textbooks or the individual papers on this subject.

E. M. DARMADY

PROGRESS IN CHEMICAL TOXICOLOGY, Vol. 2 Edited by A. Stolman. (Pp. x + 416. 100s.) New York and London: Academic Press. 1965.

This book follows the publication of 'Toxicology, Mechanisms and Analytical Methods', Volumes 1 and 2, in 1960-61, and Volume 1 of 'Progress in Chemical Toxicology' in 1963. It consists of six main chapters by seven American and two British authors. Very nearly half the book is taken up by a chapter by the Editor and C.P. Stewart and is a survey of the literature on absorption, distribution, and excretion of poisons. This will be of special interest to pathologists in that it provides a most useful review of the interpretation of toxicological data, plugging the gaps left in the original 1960-61 book, but it should be noted that all the references (nearly 500) except one are to 1962 or before that year.

The other six chapters are of a practical nature, involving infra-red analysis of volatile compounds and toxic gases, especially substances that can appear in the breath, the analysis of tissue for some alkaloids by a distillation procedure followed by ultra-violet scanning, spectrographic sample preparation, and chromatographic techniques. The quality of these chapters is, on the whole, high, especially that on the analysis of metals by spectrographic analysis which is comprehensive and includes an excellent review of the concentration, isolation, and enrichment of trace elements.

The two chapters on chromatography will be of interest to pathologists in that the one by H. V. Street is a collected selection of his previously published papers on rapid methods of analysis using mainly paper chromatography, while the Editor's second chapter, on thin-layer chromatography, presents 51 tables on the separation of compounds as diverse as the mercury derivatives of olefines, through the sulphonamides, to many categories of organic compounds and drugs.

The book looks both forward and backward and as such fulfils in part the promise of its title. It is provocative in including research material not previously published, especially the chapter on ultra-violet scanning of distillates of alkaloids, as well as procedures of proven value. It should not be pretended that it is other than a book for specialists in analytical toxicology and as such the price is relatively high, although the quality of the paper and diagrams, some of which are superfluous, is also high. There is a subject and author index.

A. S. CURRY

THE PHYSIOLOGY OF BLOOD PLATELETS By A. J. Marcus and M. B. Zucker. (Pp. x + 162. \$7.00. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1965.

For the scientifically inclined physician platelet stickiness and platelet aggregation seem now to be stimulating almost as much attention as anticoagulants, and the underlying phenomena—physiochemical, enzymatic, and hydrodynamic—to mention only a few, are of great interest. When two acknowledged experts write a little book at this time on platelet physiology and include 875 references

(with one or two minor mistakes) we are all very fortunate. It is a masterful catalogue of present knowledge, and essential reading to those entering the field. To be initiated, it is a valuable reference book. Many others—physiologists, chemists, and clinicians—should read the book, but they might wish for a distillation of all the reports. Were the authors too modest to propose their own synthesis? Perhaps no synthesis is yet possible. The book follows the authors' wide interests, but is not wide enough to justify the title; for example, five pages devoted to thrombosis seem unreasonably little, but even this section includes over 50 references.

J. R. O'BRIEN

WACHSTUMSHORMON UND WACHSTUMSSTORUNGEN. DAS CUSHING-SYNDROM Edited by E. Klein. (Pp. 307 + 130 illustrations. DM. 78.—) Berlin: Springer-Verlag. 1965.

This paper-back volume contains the Proceedings of the eleventh symposium of the German Society for Endocrinology held in Dusseldorf from 4 to 7 March 1964. The first part is devoted to growth hormone and disturbances of growth, and the 13 contributions contain some useful information on the chemistry and estimation of the hormone and on its significance in human dwarfism. The second section contains 14 papers on Cushing's syndrome, some dealing with differential diagnosis and others with treatment. The third section contains a variety of endocrinological papers unrestricted as to topic. The participants were mainly German but included some from other European countries and the discussions are given verbatim. As usual with Springer-Verlag, the book is beautifully produced, but it has no index.

G. K. MCGOWAN

ADRENAL STEROIDS AND DISEASE By Cuthbert L. Cope. (Pp. xi + 827; illustrated. 126s.) London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. 1965.

Dr. Cope, who is a pioneer in many fields of research relating to medical aspects of the adrenal cortex, has now written an excellent book dealing with virtually every aspect of the function and disease of this gland, and with the use of corticosteroids in therapy. Starting with adrenal steroid chemistry, biosynthesis, and metabolism, he proceeds through tests of adrenal function and the biological effects of adrenal steroids to diseases associated with the adrenal cortex. He then deals in detail with steroid therapy and its complications, and ends with chapters on the adrenal cortex in the pregnant woman and the infant, steroid fevers, progestins, foetal masculinization, and hyperadrenalism in malignant disease.

Each of the 38 chapters includes a critical review of the relevant literature, together with a balanced and authoritative summing-up which reveals the author's intimate knowledge of previous work in this field. In addition to the sections dealing with his own particular specialities, the chapters on stress and diseases of adaptation struck the reviewer as being particularly well done.

Dr. Cope, who has had so much experience in the laboratory as well as the ward, has attempted with great success 'to bridge the gap between the practical clinician

and the laboratory investigator'. As a result, his book provides the clinical pathologist with a wealth of useful and detailed information concerning biochemical techniques, function tests, and clinical interpretations.

The style is simple and clear, and though there are a few verbal infelicities, there are also some happy and penetrating remarks, such as, 'adrenal function has become for some the last refuge of the aetiologically destitute'. The only substantial criticism of the book is the lack of coordination of information dealt with in more than one chapter; thus a subject dealt with in detail in a later chapter may be mentioned casually in an early chapter without explanation and without a cross reference. However, there is a good index.

Pitman's have produced the book well in a pleasant type which, combined with the author's style, makes for easy reading. The price may seem on the high side, but the book is well worth it, and should be in every laboratory which attempts to diagnose diseases of the adrenal cortex.

G. K. MCGOWAN

suggest for it will certainly be useful in hospital and public health laboratories. It is difficult to imagine any bacteriologist who would not be glad of reliable help on such topics as counts of viable bacteria, the precise control of defined media, reliable pH estimations, measurement of oxidation-reduction potential, practical methods of sterilization, plate microscopy, use of membrane filters, infectivity titrations, comparison of dose response curves, and preservation of cultures. These, and many other relevant matters, are very clearly set out and discussed in a genuinely helpful manner. Numerous tables, not elsewhere readily available in one book, will greatly lessen the amount of computation involved in standard procedures. There is no doubt that Dr. and Mrs. Meynell have written a book which will be extremely helpful to all microbiologists.

J. W. HOWIE

CORRECTION

On page 600 in the paper 'Enzymatic release from the red cells in megaloblastic anaemia' (*J. clin. Path.*, **18**, 599), line 25, col. 1, please read 0.2 ml. and not 2.2 ml. as printed and on page 601, col. 1, $P < 0.1$ should read $P > 0.1$.

THEORY AND PRACTICE IN EXPERIMENTAL BACTERIOLOGY
By G. C. Meynell and Elinor Meynell. (Pp. xii + 228.
50s.) London: Cambridge University Press. 1965.
This attractive book has a wider range than its title may

Reports and Bulletins prepared by the Association of Clinical Biochemists

The following reports and bulletins are published by the Association of Clinical Biochemists. They may be obtained from Mr. J. T. Ireland, Biochemistry Laboratory, Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool, 12. The prices include postage, but airmail will be charged extra.

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

- 1 Colorimeters with Flow Through Cells. A Critical Assessment of 4 Instruments. 1965. P. M. G. BROUGHTON and C. RILEY. 13s 6d.

TECHNICAL BULLETINS

- 1 Data Sheet on Control Sera. July 1964. 1s.
- 2 A Report on the Enzyme Questionnaire Circulated by the Scientific Committee. December 1964. A. H. GOWENLOCK. 1s.
- 3 Non-recording Spectrophotometers for the Visible and Ultraviolet Ranges. A comparative table of instru-

ments available in Great Britain. May 1965. A. H. GOWENLOCK, P. C. NICHOLAS, and J. H. WILKINSON. 1s. 6d.

- 4 Control Solutions for Clinical Biochemistry. June 1965. P. M. G. BROUGHTON and A. H. GOWENLOCK. 1s. 6d.
- 5 Recording Spectrophotometers. A comparative list of low-priced instruments readily available in Britain. July 1965. P. SEWELL. 2s. 6d.
- 6 A guide to Automatic Pipettes. A list of more than 100 instruments compiled from manufacturers' literature. August 1965. P. M. G. BROUGHTON. 5s.
- 7 Variability Between AutoAnalyzer Modules. August 1965. B. E. NORTHAM. 1s 6d.