REVIEWS

Post-mortem Appearances. By Joan M. Ross, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Advisor in Pathology to the Ministry of Supply. Late Reader in Pathology. University of London; Morbid Anatomist to Royal Free Hospital; Assistant Pathologist to St. Mary's Hospital. Fifth Edition. 1948. London: Geoffrey Cumberlege. Oxford University Press. Pp. 308. Price 8s. 6d.

This book, which has enjoyed popularity for over twenty years, needs no introduction. The new edition, of similar external and internal appearance to its predecessors, has been revised and brought up to date by the inclusion of certain pathological conditions upon which the recent war has shed highlights, for example traumatic uraemia, starvation (shades of Belsen!) and fat-embolism, where Robb-Smith's test is conveniently described. But if it be decided (p. 121) to include the rickettsial diseases, why not some of the other infections encountered abroad?

A few suggestions and criticisms are added for the sixth edition. The weight of the thymus (p. 290) does not decrease after the second year, but after puberty. The atrophy of the suprarenals in Addison's disease (p. 193) is not "simple," as in Simmonds' Disease, but of a toxic character. In the section on the anaemias it would be helpful, by way of introduction, to indicate the normal amount and distribution of haemopoietic marrow in the femur, and its variation with age. Lastly, in the gloriously simplified gliomas, for "astroblastic" read "astrocytic"; the "spongioblastic glioma" (presumably multiforme) infiltrates, and is very rarely so circumscribed as to suggest encapsulation.

The section on still births and neonatal deaths is particularly useful.

DOROTHY S. RUSSELL.

Practical Section Cutting and Staining. By E. C. Clayden, F.I.M.L.T., Senior Technician in the Morbid Histology Department of the Bland-Sutton Institute of Pathology, The Middlesex Hospital, London. 1948. London: J. and A. Churchill, Ltd. Pp. 129. Price 9s.

This manual is designed for beginners in histological technology who are preparing for the I.M.L.T. examinations. It tells them how to master the various embedding methods, microtomes, and staining techniques that are essential in their training. The writer is obviously well versed in his craft and competent to guide the tyro round the various pitfalls of section-cutting. The artifacts (Figs. 10 and 11) known, apparently, as "scores" and "chatters" respectively are all too familiar to microscopists: it is satisfactory to find their causes listed with a view to their elimination.

While it is recognized that different tastes for various procedures may obtain in different laboratories, it is

suggested (p. 43) that the picric acid method for the removal of formalin pigment from sections is preferable to the use of strong alkali which tends to bring sections off the slide. In a future edition it would be desirable to add methods for the demonstration of chromaffin tissue and Golgi apparatus; also the Marchi technique for degenerating myelin. In the staining of fatty substances the Schultz, Nile-blue sulphate, and Lorrain-Smith Dietrich methods might usefully be added.

In offering these suggestions the reviewer acknowledges the helpful comments of senior technicians in her own laboratory, who are in agreement that the work will meet a real need.

DOROTHY S. RUSSELL.

Die konstitutionellen Vergrößerungen umschriebener Körperabschnitte. By Prof. Dr. Ferdinand Adalbert Kehrer, Director of the Psychiatric and Neurological Clinic of the University of Münster (Westf.). Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag, 1948. Pp. 293, with 56 figures. Price, bound, DM 28.

Under the heading "Constitutional Enlargements of Circumscribed Parts of the Body" the author has discussed the nature, characteristic features, classification, terminology, and differential diagnosis of a great host of constitutional and developmental, often hereditary, dysplastic, hyperplastic or hypertrophic or redundant abnormalities of growth. Some of the corresponding hypoplastic abnormalities, such as lipodystrophia, he has also referred to in order to elucidate the subject, but he says that he hopes to deal with these thoroughly in a second part of the book. In regard to the rarity of some of the conditions which he has considered, he points out that the scientific importance of constitutional and developmental anomalies does not depend on their frequency. In regard to explanatory theories he asks whether a writer ought to put forward more suggestions than can be well supported.

The above remarks are sufficient to point out that this book, with its wealth of references, should find a place in every general medical library. The conditions dealt with include hereditary elephantiasis, so-called trophoedema, circumscribed obesity, lipodystrophia, adiposis dolorosa, erythrocytosis frigida crurum feminarum, acrocyanosis, clubbed fingers, hypertrophic osteoarthropathy, various local circumscribed enlargements or gigantisms, including gynaecomastia, and very many other conditions (described or referred to in discussion.)

We hope that the author's monograph will stimulate general interest in the subject, and that a second edition will appear, as well as his promised Part II. An index would be advisable, if possible.

F. PARKES WEBER.