benefit to the individual patient but also of economics.

Although the book can be highly recommended to all concerned in the treatment of congenital coagulation disorders, and provides an excellent account of their diagnosis and everyday management, including details of laboratory techniques, it should be read as an argument for referring major surgical or accident cases to the authors' own unit, rather than as an instruction manual to enable others to cope with such problems. The acquired coagulation disorders are outside the scope of the book, and it is perhaps a pity that this is not made plain in its title.

R. M. HARDISTY

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF EXPERIMENTAL PATHOLOGY
VOL. 4 Edited by G. W. Richter and M. A. Epstein.
(Pp. x + 342; illustrated. 116s.) New York and
London: Academic Press. 1965.

When the first volume of this series appeared it was widely hailed as a major and long-awaited contribution to biological reviews. The highly favourable impression created by Volume I was to some extent lessened by some aspects of the intervening annuals. This was due not to any lowering of the standards of originality or scholarship but rather to a tendency to the esoteric, *i.e.*, to dealing with specialized areas of specialist topics. The latest volume, however, returns triumphantly to the concept of the first in that all five contributors deal with topics of current and general importance to pathology.

The first article by D. F. Parsons deals with the structure and function of mitochondria and admirably illustrates the role of the electron microscope in effecting this correlation to the point where the two concepts merge into one another.

The second contribution, by D. G. Scarpelli and N. M. Kanczak, is essentially methodological and deals with ultrastructural cytochemistry. In the course of the chapter, many applications of the methods are presented and critically discussed.

The third article, by A. E. M. McLean, Elizabeth McLean, and J. D. Judah, is devoted to hepatic necrosis induced and modified by drugs. This is a masterly and highly critical review of a field of fundamental importance to pathology since it represents the spearhead of the attack on the problems of cell dysfunction and death.

The fourth chapter is an account by A. S. Cohen of the present state of the amyloid problem. It presents not only a comprehensive review but also a succinct account of the author's own research which has revolutionized all ideas about this substance. Indeed the volume is worth purchasing for this chapter alone.

Finally comes another subject, equally important and equally complex, that of complement, especially its haemolytic function and chemical properties. This article, by P. G. Klein and H. J. Wellensiek, is well up to the standard of the other four chapters and is a remarkably lucid exposition.

The volume as a whole represents an invaluable compendium of information on subjects of vital importance presented and discussed with clarity and judgment. It is well worth the purchase price to any pathologist who wishes to keep abreast of advances in his subject.

W. G. SPECTOR

PEDIATRIC PATHOLOGY By Daniel Stowens. (Pp. xi + 847; illustrated. £10 12s.) 2nd Edition. Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins Co. 1966.

The second edition is an improvement on the previous volume and a number of controversial points have been omitted. This is quite a large work and the subject is dealt with from the morbid anatomist's point of view. The chapter headings, which have a regional basis, are similar to those in the previous edition, but a chapter has been added on chromosomal abnormalities. The chapter concerned with the newborn infant has been largely rewritten and important changes are seen in connexion with cardiovascular disorders and diseases of the liver and kidneys. There are separated accounts of diseases resulting from viruses, protozoa and fungi, and from worm infestation. Some of these are of course more useful to those working in tropical countries or in North America, but their inclusion adds to the value of the book as a reference work.

The volume is well produced and copiously illustrated. The photomicrographs are of a high order with only few exceptions. The bibliography is extensive and is grouped under subject headings at the end of each chapter. Some of the references are not particularly recent but they are representative of both the American and European literature.

This book will be of great value to all those who have an interest in paediatric pathology. The highly personalized style of the author, and the way in which some of his views are expressed, may not commend him to other paediatric pathologists, but as a reference work this book is not likely to be superseded for some time to come.

A. E. CLAIREAUX

HYALURONIDASE AND CANCER By E. Cameron. (Pp. xiii + 245; illustrated. 50s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. Dr. Cameron's thesis is simple: 'It becomes possible to relate all the principal morphological, biochemical, experimental, and therapeutic features of cancer to the single common denominator provided by the hyaluronidase-substrate reaction. The continuous release of hyaluronidase is the fundamental difference between the neoplastic and the normal cell.'

It is a breathtaking recipe and so far from the general view of cancer that the question at once arises, who is out of step? A few points suffice. Differentiation, for example, and its variation from tumour to tumour, the phenomena of anaplasia and metaplasia are passed by entirely. Progression is ignored and hormone-dependence is dealt with thus: 'Is it not possible that regressions occur in *patients* who have "hormone-sensitive" ground substance rather than in *tumours* which have "hormone-dependent" cells?' To which one answer is, why, then, do not tumours of all organs respond in similar proportions to endocrine therapy?

Naturally the lack of contact inhibition between tumour cells in culture, where there is no ground substance for hyaluronidase to act upon, is not mentioned. Indeed the whole concept of neoplastic disease built up by experiment and clinical observation is either ignored or distorted to fit somehow into Dr. Cameron's fantastic hypothesis. The tragedy is that probably there is much

still to be learned about the part played by hyaluronidase and stromal reactions, but this must await a more balanced presentation.

H. E. M. KAY

BACTERIOLOGY FOR STUDENTS OF DENTAL SURGERY By R. B. Lucas and R. H. Kramer. 3rd Edition. (Pp. viii + 268; 40s.) London: Churchill.

This is a clear and simple account of bacteria and their relation to disease, and it is not surprising that it is now in its third edition. Germs are, of course, much the same whether they are studied by dentists or doctors, and a great deal of this book might be found in an equivalent textbook for medical students beginning their clinical course. As might be expected, the main differences are the reduction in clinical information and the inclusion of material of direct interest to dentists. There are chapters on the bacteriology of dental caries and periodontal disease and on the bacteriological examination of oral lesions. The difficult problem of sterilization in the dentist's surgery has not been avoided. After noting that in hospitals central or departmental sterile supply services are coming into use, the authors deal sensibly and clearly with the methods that can be used by individual dentists to prevent the transfer of infection from one patient to another. There is an excellent short chapter on chemotherapy.

The book is well produced on glossy paper with plain illustrations.

R. A. SHOOTER

PRACTICAL HINTS ON ABSORPTION SPECTROMETRY By J. R. Edisbury. (Pp. xii + 266; illustrated. 50s.) London: Hilger and Watts. 1966.

This is an unusual book because, after opening with four chapters of somewhat elementary discussion of the principles of, and units used in, spectrophotometry (material that any honours graduate in science should know), it settles down to a series of very practical details on the maintenance and handling of most of the well-known spectrophotometers. These chapters alone would justify its purchase by any laboratory in which two or more instruments are in constant use. The reviewer has a lurking suspicion that the writer added the chapter on absorption spectrometry later rather than be 'with it' than for a serious purpose. Justice cannot be done to this expanding field in 600 words.

The chapter on precision, 36 pages of light-hearted prose, is one which any worker in the field would enjoy and from which many might benefit. It is preceded by a chapter, labelled oddly enough 'Links with sanity', which deals with standards.

There are four pages of well-chosen references for those who like to go to the primary source.

On my shelves is an earlier book on spectrophotometry written by Heilmeyer and produced more than 25 years ago by the same publishers. The pages are thumbled and stained. I hope this new volume will receive the same treatment. If I have carped, it is because I was enchanted with Dr. Edisbury's casual and informative prose style. A scientific publication which makes you laugh while you learn is all too rare today.

N. H. MARTIN

RECENT ADVANCES IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF CANCER Papers presented at the 9th Annual Clinical Conference on Cancer, 1964, University of Texas. (Pp. 310; illustrated. 90s.) London: Lloyd-Luke Ltd. 1966.

This book comprises a series of papers originally presented at a conference at the M. D. Anderson Hospital, Houston, Texas in 1964. The various chapters range over a wide variety of techniques: those broadly covered by the term 'nuclear medicine', exfoliative cytology, the use of the cryostat, diagnostic radiology, thermography, immunoelectrophoresis, and immunodiffusion methods. Clearly the conference would have been well worth attending, but the publication of the papers in a book form is not entirely satisfactory. The chapters vary considerably in usefulness, and in the degree to which their subject matter really represents 'recent advances'; the result is a lack of balance. Established workers in the various fields will doubtless be familiar with most of the techniques described, whilst others would be advised to consult appropriate monographs and original articles. The illustrations are of good quality, but some are manifestly redundant; for example, the posed photographs of simple technical procedures such as a slide being placed in a staining dish. Doubtless, this volume should be on the shelf of a reference library.

N. F. C. GOWING

INBORN ERRORS OF METABOLISM PART 2. LABORATORY METHODS By David Yi-Yung Hsia and Tohru Inouye. (Pp. xvii + 244; 8 figures. 53s.) London: Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd. 1966.

This is the second of two volumes dealing with inborn errors of metabolism. Whereas the first describes the various metabolic lesions, this deals with the methods used for detecting and confirming them.

The book was written 'to supplement existing texts and manuals of clinical chemistry'. It is therefore surprising to find that it includes standard routine methods such as the estimation of plasma electrolytes, albumin and globulin, glucose by the enzymatic method, and clotting time. It even includes brief accounts of such standard basic techniques as spectrophotometry, electrophoresis, and chromatography.

The bulk of the book consists of concise descriptions of over 100 analytical procedures, and these are presented very much as 'cookery-book recipes'. Most experienced laboratory workers will be wary of using such recipes without consulting the original publication, but this is made easy by the full references provided. The real value of such a collection is to provide a reference book of methods with sufficient detail to indicate the practicability and suitability of the method for the laboratory concerned, and to provide references for further reading. As such it can be recommended to any of the larger hospital laboratories.

There are few misprints—a creditable achievement as such a collection of recipes must be a formidable proposition for any proof-reader. The book is well printed and bound, and the price is not excessive.

G. K. MCGOWAN