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