Book reviews

DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES IN DISORDERS OF CALCIUM METABOLISM By B. E. C. Nordin and D. A. Smith. (Pp. xii + 268; illustrated. 60s.) London: J. A. Churchill. 1965.

This is a book written by two physicians who have had a wide experience of metabolic bone disease. They have covered the diagnostic procedures which they have found useful; thus the book includes clinical examination, biochemical tests and their interpretation, radiology (including illustrative plates), and metabolic balance work. The greater part is devoted to a description of the tests and their interpretation, but it is followed by a substantial section on laboratory procedures covering biochemical methods of analysis, histological and bacteriological techniques, and some specialist applications of radioisotopes and x-ray densitometry.

With such a very wide field to cover, it is apparent that the authors cannot deal exhaustively with every part. Thus the book will be of value to physicians and endocrinologists but may not satisfy all the needs of the specialist radiologist, pathologist, or physicist. Nevertheless, even the latter will find much of value here and will be helped by the selective bibliography to consult the relevant original literature. As a general and very readable account of the present position, this book can be recommended.

I. D. P. WOOTTON

CARCINOMA IN SITU By G. Kern (Pp. vii + 214; 118 figures. D.M. 69). Springer-Verlag, Berlin. 1964.

This important monograph from Cologne embodies the author's work on carcinoma *in situ* of the uterine cervix in its role as a precursor of carcinoma of the cervix.

The investigation of the disorder is considered in all its aspects, clinical and pathological, preceded by a fairly full historical review in each section. Applied exfoliative cytology is extensively described, followed by the customary description of colposcopy. The Schiller iodine staining test is amply described, and the techniques and interpretation of the various forms of biopsy are discussed in relation to the detail and topographical aspects of histopathology, embodying much that was contributed by Hamperl and other workers in Bonn and Cologne to a Ciba Foundation study group (1959).

Most of the photomicrographs are excellent and there are good colour plates in the section on cytology and of naked-eye appearances of the cervix.

Those interested in the background of the subject will find a great number of published works listed at the end, and in the pages concerning biopsy, histology, and cytology the work has much to offer to the practising pathologist, though some sections will doubtless seem over-complex to many readers in Britain.

MAGNUS HAINES

AN INTRODUCTION TO BLOOD SEROLOGY 3rd ed. By K. E. Boorman and B. E. Dodd. (Pp. x + 374; illustrated. 60s.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1966.

A number of books have now been written on blood transfusion and immunohaematology in general. These books are sometimes of a clinical nature or describe the blood groups and their multiple subgroups, whereas some of them are essentially practical books dealing with technical procedures. This book falls within the latter category.

The techniques which are described are numbered and the details clearly given, and at the conclusion of many of them there is a comment on the particular technique described. This book, however, is not entirely concerned with practical matters and there is sufficient theoretical content given in a simple and straightforward manner to enable those doing practical work to understand its meaning. In some sections this theoretical content could, with advantage, be a little fuller but nevertheless it is nearly always adequate. The book also contains descriptions of bench routine and the arrangement of the work which is necessary to get the best possible results. In this third edition of the book, the authors have added a very useful chapter on the basic essentials of forensic blood grouping, which includes information concerning tests for doubtful paternity together with methods necessary for the identification of stains. The book also contains numerous illustrations, tables, and clear diagrams, and the index is good.

It can be confidently recommended for those technicians, scientific workers, and others who normally engage in actual practical blood grouping and allied work.

F. STRATTON

CLINICAL HAEMATOLOGY 2nd ed. By R. D. Eastham. (Pp. 176. 15s. 6d.) Bristol, John Wright. 1966.

This is a pocket book which was first published in 1960 and now reappears in a second edition with extensive revisions. The text is divided into six chapters: 1 Haemoglobin and associated pigment; 2 Red blood cells; 3 Anaemia; 4 Peripheral white blood cells; 5 Bone marrow; 6 Bleeding, clotting, and transfusion. A book which is limited by size must, of necessity, have omissions and a reviewer may not necessarily agree with the author's assessment of the relative importance of his subject matter. Haemorrhagic disorders occupy over one third of the entire book while leukaemia does not even get a mention in the index. 'Transfusion' is confined to a brief section dealing only with blood transfusion hazards and incompatible blood transfusion. It is a minor criticism that the Paul-Bunnell and Rose-Waaler tests appear in the chapter on red blood cells; it is of more concern that the author devotes a section to the