Book reviews

Experimental Cardiovascular Diseases By Hans Selye, Vols. 1 and 2. (Pp. xviii, viii + 1155; 73 figures. DM 198, \$54.50.) Berlin, Heidelberg, and New York: Springer-Verlag. 1970.

These magnificent volumes, embodying many years of research in experimental cardiovascular disease by Professor Hans Selye and his distinguished colleagues in Montreal University, will be acclaimed everywhere by those interested in this vitally important field. He has integrated personal unpublished work and critical appraisal of the literature (printed in large single-column type), with 5,000 individual abstracts from the world literature (in small double-column type), thereby avoiding the painful and inaccurate compromise of trying to summarize several similar, but not identical papers into a single sentence. This idea is very sensible, although it does tend to produce a somewhat 'broken-up' appearance of the text.

Volume 1 includes an historical résumé, followed by a detailed account of the many factors which can actually induce or merely influence cardiovascular disease. The catalogue includes many of the drugs and procedures employed in treating patients, and leaves one questioning what part such agencies may have played in fatal human idopathic myocarditis or other cardiomyopathies.

Volume 2 includes histology, electron microscopy, and histochemistry of the lesions in various organs; chemical and functional changes; and theories concerning the role of the very numerous agencies detailed in the book.

Among countless observations, the most important have been those concerning lesions produced by hormones (catecholamines, corticoids), nutritional factors (cholesterol, vitamins, electrolytes), renal artery constriction and related methods, cardiovascular surgery, infections, and hypersensitivity reactions. Electron microscopy has proved of great assistance and provides some superb illustrations; currently, microsomal enzymes are under investigation.

The work concludes with an alphabetical list of references: these are cited in full, but not paginated, so that one has to locate them in the book via the subject index; fortunately, this is comprehensive, an essential feature if one is to benefit

fully from the complex mass of detail concentrated into the book.

The monograph is superbly produced; the illustrations, many in colour, are (with one exception on p. 463) of the highest quality. One is a little envious of the splendid organization, described in the preface, by which the encyclopaedic coverage was achieved—in sharp contrast to the paucity of help endured by most authors in Britain.

The book will certainly become a standard work of reference for all concerned in the study of cardiovascular disease, experimental or clinical; most important, it provides a salutary reminder of the possibility of iatrogenic agencies causing such illnesses.

R. E. B. HUDSON

Atherosclerosis: Proceedings of the Second International Symposium Edited by Richard J. Jones. (Pp. xxxii + 706; 150 illustrations. £7.60.) Berlin, Heidelberg, and New York: Springer-Verlag. 1970.

This beautifully produced and illustrated volume records the papers and discussions from the Second International Symposium on Atherosclerosis which was held in Chicago in November 1969. It covers a remarkably wide range of types of investigation in the field of arterial disease, embracing all aspects of pathogenesis, morphological and chemical disturbances, nutrition, effects of drugs, epidemiology, and finally programme planning for the control of atherosclerosis.

Naturally, amongst such a large number of papers and contributors there is considerable variation in quality and presentation, but undoubtedly many valuable papers are included. It is pleasant to see a reasonably generous representation of British contributors and to record that their papers rank among the most important in the volume. Amongst so many it is invidious to discriminate, but the contribution from Dr John French, who died so tragically a few months after the meeting, stands out as a model of clarity and originality.

One of the most valuable features of the book is the very extensive bibliography, running to 1,600 papers nearly all of which were published in the 1960s.

A characteristic summary by Dr Hugh Sinclair couched in his well known after-dinner style acts as a suitable aid to the digestion of what is a very weighty contribution to the literature of this subject.

T. CRAWFORD

Hypertension: Causes, Consequences and Management By George Pickering. (Pp. vii + 115; illustrated. £1.75.) London: and A. Churchill. 1970.

Sir George Pickering is to be congratulated on producing within such a small compass a really informative and up-to-date account of modern views on the subject of hypertension. It is a remarkable achievement to compress into such a small space a really worthwhile condensation of the matter which he wrote upon so fully in his full-length textbook on high blood pressure published in 1968. He covers physiological aspects of blood pressure control and its disturbances, the pathological consequences of hypertension, and assessment and management of hypertension in the individual patient, in addition to discussing the problems posed by defining hypertension in population groups. This is just the abbreviated account which was wanted for busy workers who are perhaps only marginally involved in this difficult subject. It is unfortunate that, in spite of economies in production, the publishers have found it necessary to charge such a high price.

T. CRAWFORD

Lecture Notes on Haematology By N. Hughes-Jones. (Pp. vii + 144; illustrated. £1.50.) Oxford and Edinburgh: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1970.

There has long been a need for a short concise textbook of haematology for medical students. In general, sections on haematology in textbooks of pathology are unsatisfactory and very often misleading. Sections on haematology in textbooks of medicine, if they exist, usually lack a scientific basis. It is unrealistic to expect medical students to read the major textbooks on haematology which are large and too detailed for the normal undergraduate.

Dr. Hughes-Jones has succeeded in filling the gap admirably. He has produced a short and extremely readable book liberally scattered with pertinent references. This small book is full of interesting ideas.

For example, in addition to giving detail all the references quoted in the text Dr Hughes-Jones occasionally adds additional references which he thinks would make valuable reading, and at the end of each chapter defines under the heading 'Objectives in learning' those areas on which he feels the student should concentrate. These are chosen with care.

Although there are adequate numbers of figures the illustrations have been reduced to a minimum, presumably to keep down the cost and it is here that the only criticism can be made. Black and white reproductions of cells are never satisfactory; however one feels that greater attention could have been given to the quality of the photomicrographs chosen and to the way in which the legends were composed. Unfortunately not all of the photographs are typical examples of the abnormality to be demonstrated and it is hoped that if the publication goes into a second edition, as it probably will, that some improvement can be made.

The size chosen by the publishers is unfortunate: it is neither a pocket book nor is it of standard textbook size. This may have been dictated by economy, but the material would have been enormously enhanced by being laid out on a larger page with a larger type. This book deserves to become a standard reference for all students in the clinical period. It would also form a useful addition to the library of junior medical staff in hospital.

D. G. CHALMERS

Practical Blood Transfusion By Douglas W. Huestis, Joseph R. Bore, and Shirley Busch. (Pp. 383; illustrated. £7.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1970.

There is considerable variation in blood transfusion practice in different centres in the United States, but this book describes the procedures adopted by the American National Red Cross Service where the standards are very similar to those of the British National Blood Transfusion Service. The American Red Cross Service does not pay its donors, but operates a credit system for future blood transfusions for the donor and his family. The authors clearly favour a voluntary system.

The book spans the whole field of transfusion practice from the selection of donors to the ultimate use of blood and blood products. For this reason, it will probably find greatest application in those countries where doctors and technicians find themselves responsible for organizing both the blood donor service and the hospital blood bank. The authors make no pretence of the fact that in covering such a wide spectrum, they are unable to cater for the specialist.

Anyone starting up a blood donor service would be well advised to follow

the criteria laid down for the selection and care of donors. The three chapters on laboratory methods are excellent and describe practically all the techniques used by modern-day serologists, but a separate section on the investigation of the autoimmune haemolytic anaemias would have been an advantage. While the recommendations are to a high standard, there are some with which we cannot agree. For example, few British serologists would read antiglobulin reactions under the microscope. Furthermore, we cannot accept the argument for ignoring the antigens C and E in D-negative donor blood on the basis that C and E are low-grade antigens. In Britain it is generally agreed that donors are only declared truly Rh negative if they have the genotype $\bar{c}de/\bar{c}de$. With such differences of opinion in mind, the book should be read critically by advanced students preparing themselves for examination in Great Britain.

The later chapters dealing with the use of blood and blood products could be read with profit by clinicians.

W. J. JENKINS

A Practical Guide to Blood Coagulation and Haemostasis By Jean M. Thomson. (Pp. x + 220; 26 figures and 19 tables. £2.80). London: J. and A. Churchill. 1970.

This book aims, largely successfully, to present a scheme of laboratory investigation for the bleeding and coagulation disorders suitable for use in any hospital laboratory. The theoretical background of clotting and platelets and fibrinolysis is sketched in, followed by a rather diffuse discussion of when each test is appropriate. The recommended techniques are well described in 50 pages, but include elastography and Chandler's tube, which is not for 'any hospital', and also a number of techniques which the author herself does not recommend. In general this is a useful, practical, up-to-date guide even if it does not break new ground.

J. R. O'BRIEN

Lymphatics, Lymph and the Lymphomyeloid By J. M. Yoffey and F. C. Courtice. (Pp. xviii + 942; illustrated. £12.50). London: Academic Press Inc. (London) Ltd. 1970.

Professor Yoffey has been the curator of the lymphatic system for the best part of

40 years and the two editions of 'Lymphatics, lymph and lymphoid tissues' have been standard books of reference since their publication in 1941 and 1956. Now, with the help of Professor Courtice, he has compiled an impressive volume which is more than just a third edition, as its size and change of title denote.

Roughly half the book is devoted to lymph and lymphatics, and one half to the lymphocyte and its relation to the bone marrow. The first half is less exciting but more satisfactory. Knowledge of lymph flows gently through uncontroversial channels, so that the chapters on lymph formation, composition and flow, and on the pathology of lymph will continue to stand as reliable reference points. The illustrations, which include lymphograms, stereoscan electron micrographs, and many others, are well chosen to enhance the text.

Meanwhile the turbulent and unpredictable lymphocyte is less easily subjected to textbook treatment. The text was completed in November 1969 and already begins to look dated. Thus although there is much discussion of the thymic and non-thymic origin of lymphocytes, the two-component hypothesis of the lymphoid system which, rightly or wrongly, underlines most recent work on lymphocyte populations, receives only passing attention. The functions of the lymphocyte are similarly referred to in a rather haphazard way, and, here again, recent progress has rapidly overtaken the authors.

There is much discussion of the significance of the bone-marrow lymphocyte and transitional cell with a fair but inconclusive summary of the evidence. All in all this latter section of the book must be judged by the perception of lines of progress and by the comprehensiveness of its survey. A text liberally spattered with apposite questions and an abundance of references indicates a measure of success which will be particularly welcomed by the reference chaser. An essential book for the lymphatic student.

H. E. M. KAY

Immunological Surveillance By Sir Macfarlane Burnet. (Pp. 280; 7 illustrations. £3.) Oxford: Pergamon Press Ltd. 1970.

This is another in the well known series of essays in verbal theoretical biology by Sir Macfarlane Burnet. They differ from the two usual forms of scientific review, in one of which an author mobilizes the literature and his own series of experi-