- Denson, K. W. E. (1968). Two forms of haemophilia? (Letter). *Lancet*, 2, 222-223.
- Denson, K. W. E., Biggs, R., Haddon, M. E., Borrett, R., and Cobb, K. (1969). Two types of haemophilia (A⁺ and A⁻). A study of 48 cases. *Brit. J. Haemat.*, 17, 163-171.
- Feinstein, D., Chong, M. N. Y., Kasper, C. K., and Rapaport, S. I. (1969). Hemophilia A: polymorphism detectable by a factor VIII antibody. *Science*, 163, 1071-1072.
- Hoyer, L. W., and Breckenridge, R. T. (1968). Immunologic studies of antihemophilic factor (AHF, Factor VIII): Cross-reacting material in a genetic variant of hemophilia A. *Blood*, 32, 962-971.
- Meyer, D., Dray, L., and Larrieu, M. J. (1970). Hemophilie. Les variants des facteurs VIII et IX. *Nouv. Rev. franç. Hémat.*, 10, 619-629.
- Pitney, W. R. (1956). The assay of antihemophilic globulin (AHG) in plasma. *Brit. J. Haemat.*, 2, 250-264.

Lysing Agent for the Coulter S

I was interested in a recent letter (Nicol, D. J., and Davis, R. E., 1971, *J. clin. Path.*, 24, 882) which describes reagents for use with the Coulter counter model S. An alternative lysing agent which has been in routine use in this laboratory since February 1971 is a 2% solution of Ethyl hexadecyl dimethyl ammonium bromide (Tech)¹ in Isoton². The cost of preparation of a diluent similar in quality to Isoton appeared to be prohibitive but use of this substitute lysing agent has allowed an economy in this laboratory in excess of £1 000 per annum. The solution is particle free and has a shelf life in excess of one year. White blood cell counts and haemoglobin estimates comparing Lyse S³ and this lysing agent show no significant differences. The absorption spectra of haemoglobin solutions prepared with this reagent are very similar to those obtained at 546 nm with Lyse S (maximum differences were $\pm 2\%$ absorbance).

We prepare the reagent for use by adding 400 g of chemical to 20 litres of Isoton.

B. C. D. BALLARD
Department of Pathology,
The Gibson Laboratories,
Radcliffe Infirmary,
Oxford

¹Kodak Ltd, catalogue no. T. 5661

²Coulter Electronics, Dunstable, Beds

Book reviews

Transplantation Today Edited by Hans Balner, D. W. van Bekkum, and Felix T. Rapaport. (Pp. xxiv + 978. \$25.00.) New York and London: Grune and Stratton Inc. 1971.

The Third International Congress of the Transplantation Society was held in September 1970. The proceedings were published six months later as Volume 3, No. 1 of *Transplantation Proceedings*, and priced at \$20. The volume reviewed here is the same material put between hard covers, provided with a title, and somewhat more expensively priced.

It consists of some 240 papers, mainly of three to four pages each, covering most (but by no means all) of the vast field of clinical and experimental transplantation of interest today. The largest section (about 200 pages) deals with transplantation antigens in man and other species, including their genetics and chemistry. Other topics covered include clinical transplantation (selection of donor, special problems in transplantation of kidney, liver, lung, bone marrow, pancreas and heart, etc.), antilymphocyte serum, tolerance and enhancement, microsurgical techniques, tissue and organ preservation, and cross-species transplantation. Papers that do not fit readily into other sections are collected under 'Fundamental transplantation immunology'.

As these papers were for presentation at a scientific congress, they tend to be rather specialized, and they will be of most interest to clinical or experimental workers in the transplantation field.

It is unfortunate that several diagrams have been compressed within a half-page width. Some of these are literally unreadable without a magnifying glass.

M. C. BERENBAUM

Clinical Chemical Pathology 6th edn By C. H. Gray. (Pp. x + 244; illustrated. £2.00.) London: Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd. 1971.

This book forms the basis of instruction in chemical pathology to the clinical medical students at Kings College Hospital, London. There is one new chapter in this edition and three chapters have been re-written but the book has been maintained at the same length as the previous edition by effective pruning of material.

Any author who can accomplish reasonably full and lucidly written description of chemical pathology in less than 250 pages is to be congratulated. Professor Gray deserves our congratulations.

The reviewer found the chapter on acid-base confusing. A more general approach to biochemical genetics rather than listing of known conditions would have been more interesting. The rewritten chapters on renal function and hormones are excellent summaries.

The publishers are to be congratulated on the price of £2.

T. P. WHITEHEAD

Practical Section Cutting and Staining 5th edn By E. C. Clayden. (Pp. 270; illustrated. £3.00.) Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone. 1971.

Successfully retaining the 'little book' image, Mr Clayden has produced a fifth edition, maintaining the example set by the previous four.

This humble book has probably aided and advised more than would care to admit, and given encouragement to many students contemplating a career in technical histology.

Cleverly brought up to date without pretending to be comprehensive, the volume includes little that is superfluous and is still the best 'starter' for students.

I. HUNTER

Ask the Lab—the Career of a Medical Laboratory Technician By Kenneth Hughes. (Pp. 125; illustrated. £1.50.) Reading: Educational Explorers. 1971.

Many medical laboratory technicians will recognize the need for a book of this kind—certainly they will recognize their own laboratories. But, in emphasizing the vocational and humanitarian aspects of this career, the author has sometimes obscured its essential scientific nature.

There is, perhaps, insufficient mention of those dynamic changes taking place now in hospital laboratories, both in technical development and in training of personnel, to highlight the challenge they might present to inquisitive young school leavers.

CELIA NELSON