BOOK REVIEWS

Cytology of the Blood and Blood-forming Organs.

By M. Bessis ; translated by E. Ponder. (Pp. xvi+629 ; 22 colour plates, 405 figures. \$22.) London and New York ; Grune and Stratton. 1956.

It is a pleasure to review a book which sets out so beautifully the present situation of the cytology of the blood. The author is the well-known director of the Research Laboratory at the National Transfusion Centre in Paris, and the excellent translation by Eric Ponder provides a book which covers the simple staining methods and techniques of counting which are universally accepted, and follows them by a detailed description of the techniques for examination of living cells by such newer methods as concentration of cells and their separation, and examination with bright fields, vital staining, and phase contrast (which is beautifully illustrated throughout the book), and finally the techniques for using the electronic microscope. Throughout the illustrations are all uniformly excellent, and, to those not used to the photographic tricks, give the most vivid appreciation of the cell, its structure and detailed contents. The reader is especially referred to the beautiful series of photographs illustrating the effects on the red cells of agglutination, haemolysis, division of the stroma, etc. The granulocytic series, enormously magnified, showing mitochondria and the specific granules, also demonstrate how the minute photographic accuracy helps in the understanding of the function as well as the morphology of the cells.

In all the reviewer found this a thrilling book, opening up new fields of descriptive cytology and experimental cytology, and although it is expensive in English money it should find a place in the library of everybody who is interested in the cells of the blood.

A. GORDON SIGNY.

Progress in Hematology, Vol. 1. Edited by L. M.

Tocantins, with 27 contributors. (Pp. ix+336 ; illustrated. \$9.75.) London and New York : Grune and Stratton. 1956.

In the introduction to this first volume of *Progress in Hematology* the editor sets out his proposals for future volumes. He points out that the subject of haematology has grown so much that, whereas a short time ago haematology consisted of simple techniques, the progress has been so enormous that specialization within haematology is now commonplace.

There are 27 contributors, with 16 subjects. As one would expect, there is no uniformity in the standards of these chapters. Some techniques are now quite familiar and in routine use in most laboratories, and are therefore no longer of the same interest as they would have been when the chapters were first written. However, the volume does what it sets out to do, and surveys the developing field in haematology. Without being particularly selective it is pos-

sible to say that the only English contribution (by Ungley and Thompson) on the vitamin B₁₂ and the intrinsic factor interrelationships is perhaps one of the best-written chapters in the volume. There is no doubt that specialists in the fields of some of the subjects, such as abnormal haemoglobins, will not find very much to help them at this moment, but for the ordinary clinical pathologist this is an excellent beginning, and in a number of volumes will undoubtedly cover the subject-matter of haematology to-day.

It is, of course, difficult to discuss each chapter of the book, but overall there is no doubt that they cover their material, although in some, e.g., "Auto-immune Thrombocytopenias" with 102 references, the subject is covered in an entirely different way from "The Guiding Principles in the Surgery of Haemophilic Patients" which has only one reference. The author here states very firmly that major surgery in these patients is always dangerous, but nevertheless with the collaboration of the surgeon and haematologist the end-result can well repay the attention given to them.

The book is beautifully produced, and the venture should be encouraged.

A. GORDON SIGNY.

Blood Transfusion in Clinical Medicine, 2nd ed. By P. L. Mollison. (Pp. xxv+587 ; 80 figures, 40 tables. 45s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1956.

In the five years that have elapsed since the first edition there have been many advances in this field, and the author has taken this new knowledge together with the old and has almost rewritten the whole book. This work will be of great value to the pathologist, to the clinician, and to those concerned with research in this field. In particular, both the pathologist and the clinician will find the information on transfusion in relation to haemorrhage and anaemia invaluable as a guide in the problems of everyday hospital life.

The problem of incompatible blood transfusion is dealt with extensively, and an interesting chapter reviews the other unfavourable effects of transfusion. There is much information regarding the survival of red cells and other blood constituents and the estimation of red cell and plasma volumes. The survey of the blood group systems is brief but adequate, and the chapter on blood grouping techniques provides a detailed account of all procedures that are likely to be required.

The final chapters contain an up-to-date review of haemolytic disease of the newborn, together with information about normal neonatal haemoglobin and bilirubin levels, and details of the various techniques used for transfusing newborn infants.

C. A. HOLMAN.