seems promising. The good technician and the wise pathologist are likewise interested in books on histological technique. We could justifiably suspect the wife who buys because the cover has a picture of Phillip This or Sidney That, and certainly we do not expect any technician will buy Mr. Gurr's book because the frontispiece shows the author reading in his laboratory.

Most of those who might buy this book will know that Mr. E. Gurr sells the material of the histologist and will realize that comment or helpful advice can hardly be expected over the range of specialties including histopathology, histochemistry, bacteriology, entomology, and botany. It is essentially a list of methods, and many of them are given without reference; if these are all due to Mr. Gurr one can but be amazed. The first edition, according to the wrapper, was a masterpiece of clarity, and this edition is said to have an exhaustive and careful index. Sampling of the latter reveals Van Gieson wrongly spelt and without a reference to page 122; stomach referred to p. 172 in mistake for 173 and not correlated with gastric mucosa for which three other page references are given. Ehrlich on p. 131 should be Ehrich, and terpineol is wrongly spelt on p. 122. There is no mention of Steedman's excellent ester-wax technique.

This as a source book does not compare with Peter Gray's meticulous and voluminous *The Microtome's Formulary and Guide*. As a book for the learner or the thinker it lacks the verity and ring of experience that we meet in the little books written by men on the job. Whatever a reviewer may say it will be bought, for craftsmen, like good wives, have unquenchable curiosity and their own phoenix of optimism. Moreover, every good technician tries out a new method at least once a year, and there are sure to be some in this volume that he has never tried before.

ALAN LENDRUM.

The Pathogenesis of Coronary Occlusion. By A. D. Morgan; Foreword by John B. Duguid. (Pp. 171; 179 figures. 42s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1956.

This is a readable book with a pleasant historical survey of the conflict and confusion that bedevil this subject. Even the most modest writers of to-day would do well to remember how Virchow's frown could rusticate the hypothesis of a Rokitsansky. The rehabilitation of the latter by Professor Duguid, who contributes a foreword to the volume, is guardedly and then freely accepted by the author. Indeed, although the other views are given a judicial assessment and their probable participation frankly recognized, the thrombotic element in the occlusive process is expounded with objectivity and clarity. The illustrations, many of which are excellent, contribute significantly to this bit of the argument.

Running through the book is an apparent but not emphasized acceptance of the now almost fashionable view that arterial endothelium is more permeable than we had once imagined, and, as Anitschkow showed, that the internal elastic lamina acts as a fairly effective barrier to the larger molecules that seep in. He illustrates in an entertaining but rather unrealistic coloured frontispiece the escape of lipid into the media once the internal elastic lamina is broken. Perhaps the mucinous degeneration of the intima, which he suggests as a possible localizing factor in the atheromatous process, may itself be the result of the entrance of some substance from the blood stream, an entrance of some substance from the blood stream, a in the amount passing into the wall.

When the author comes to the conclusions one notes with disappointment that there is no loss of fluency in the writing and it becomes clear that he is coming down on all sides of this curious fence. His forensic display has the merit of arranging the evidence, of poisoning view against view, and generally of showing where reasonable men could agree, although he swerves past the Whitechapel paradox, that apparently odd retrogression of atheroma at the London Hospital during the 50 years in which myocardial infarction has been so rapidly increasing. Occlusion of the coronaries remains almost as mysterious as it was, but those who are intrigued will be grateful to Dr. Morgan. Carmine on p. 97 should, of course, be azocarmine, a very different chemical substance.

A. C. LENDRUM.

Ciba Foundation Colloquia on Ageing, Vol. 3. Methodology of the Study of Ageing. Edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme and Miss Cecilia M. O'Connor. (Pp. x+202; 46 figures. 32s. 6d.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1957.

This, the third of the colloquia on ageing organized by the Ciba Foundation, was designed to explore the avenues of approach available for the study of human gerontology. Thirteen of the 28 participants are responsible for the communications, most of which are followed by discussions, informal, lively, and most ably reported. The themes are varied and important.

It is salutary for the medical reader to learn about ageing in creatures other than man, for the pattern so often is different. Fertility, for instance, increases rather than declines with age in snakes and in the North Sea haddock (Bourlière). Although the theory originally put forward by Rubner (1928), that there is a direct relationship between the rate of metabolism and lifespan, has often been challenged it would appear to be true for invertebrates as well as, generally speaking, for both poikilothermal and homoiothermal vertebrates. Sticklebacks, for instance, pay the price for living in France with a life shortened to 14 or 18 months: they live longer in northern climates. Likewise pilchards survive longer in the English Channel than off Saint Jean-de-Luz. In the mammalian world it is significant that those animals with poor tempera-