BOOK REVIEWS

General Pathology, 2nd ed. Edited by Sir Howard Florey. (Pp. xv+932, illustrated. 84s.) London: Lloyd-Luke. 1958.

It has been a long-standing tradition in medical education in this country that a proper appreciation of systematic pathology can only be acquired after a sound grounding in the principles of general pathology, and that these in turn should be closely grafted upon those of physiology. It arose with Roy and Sherrington, pupils of the Cohnheim rather than the Virchow school, and it has since been fostered by the series of well-known textbooks by Adami, Lazarus Barlow, and Pembrey and Ritchie. At the present time, in spite of the growing transatlantic emphasis on organic pathology, it is still fortunately strong, and no better evidence of its vitality in our time could be found than in this Oxford book. In 43 chapters, Florey and his collaborators have covered the whole field of general pathology; many in the present edition are revised versions of those that formed the original "Lectures," but several are wholly new.

In the first edition a notable omission, which drew comments from many reviewers, was the absence of any treatment of neoplasms. This deficiency has now been made good by four substantial chapters by Berenblum, in which he takes up successively the nature of their growth, their classification and morphology, their epidemiology, and their experimental production in animals. As is to be expected, all four are admirable surveys of present knowledge and provide the student with a comprehensive review of the problems of tumour pathology which he will meet with increasing frequency while he passes through his clinical years. A further valuable addition is a chapter on atherosclerosis by J. E. French, in which, beginning with the recognized morphological features of the typical lesions, he passes on to an excellent review of the recent studies on the associated biochemical changes in the blood and tissues, many of which are now being actively prosecuted at Oxford. A welcome feature of these new chapters is the perspective given to the reader by relevant vital statistics—the product of a branch of medicine that has been more carefully cultivated in this country than anywhere abroad. How rapidly the relative importance of the different diseases, measured in terms of morbidity and mortality, is changing can only be appreciated through frequent references to the reports of the Registrar-General and to other sources of epidemiological material. The long process of eclipse, at first gradual but recently dramatic, of the formerly common infectious diseases and their replacement as causes of death by neoplasms and vascular diseases make these new chapters by Berenblum and French particularly opportune.

Other new chapters which enhance the value of the book are those by Pickering on fever, now again a subject of lively study, by French on thrombosis, and by Born on the effects of injury on metabolism. This last discussion is especially noteworthy, for the applications of modern endocrinology and biochemistry to the problems raised by trauma and by the cachexia of neoplasia may well lead shortly to advances in surgery which will much extend its useful applications to treatment in both conditions.

In a book which reaches so uniformly high a standard of presentation, it would seem invidious to criticize any single contribution. But it would appear to the reviewer that, when this book reaches its next edition, greater attention could, with advantage, be given to the diseases caused by viruses and to the reactions of cells to their presence. Not only are these diseases becoming of increasing importance, but the relations of these infective agents to the host cells in which they multiply are raising issues of great interest in both general biology and pathology.

In his preface, Florey points out that the book is intended for the "better student" in the hope of arousing his interest in the functional as well as the morphological aspects of pathology. For this, there could be no more stimulating book. The presentation throughout is on scholarly lines, the statements generally supported by those references to original literature that proper education now requires, and the whole superbly illustrated by a very large number of diagrams and beautiful half-tone photographs. The book is a tribute to the present Oxford school of pathology, and a reminder of the great potentialities of the experimental approach when it is applied to this science. There can be no doubt that it will appeal to, and influence the outlook of, many students, and will further strengthen the more distinctively English belief in the intimate dependence of pathology on functional as well as on morphological studies.

G. PAYLING WRIGHT.

Analytical Pathology, 1st ed. Edited by R. C. Mellors. (Pp. 550; 105 figures. £5 16s. 6d.) London: McGraw-Hill. 1957.

This is a collection of essays on certain aspects of eight topics of importance to pathologists: cancer, arteriosclerosis, inflammatory and vascular disease of the kidney, liver failure, the anterior pituitary, macrocytic anaemia, abnormal haemoglobins, and hypersensitivity in relation to connective tissue diseases.

The stated aim in each case is a review of some aspect or aspects of the chosen topic in the perspective