of recent advances in biology, chemistry, or physics which have illuminated the topic. Inevitably, in a work of this kind, under multiple authorship, the extent to which this aim is realized varies considerably. There is similar variation in the matter and manner of presentation of the material discussed.

For example, the contribution on cancer by the editor of this collection surveys nearly 600 papers on clinical and experimental aspects of carcinogenesis in about 100 pages. This compresses a remarkable amount of factual information into the space available and yet even finds room to discuss briefly the speculative and all-embracing concepts of the genesis of cancer arising from the work of Weiss and of Green.

The article by Gofman on arteriosclerosis and hypertension, on the other hand, devotes 50 pages to the narrow limits of discussing changes in the blood lipids, demonstrable by the ultracentrifugal techniques developed by this author and his collaborators, in relation to statistical considerations of the incidence in coronary arteriosclerosis. No new evidence is presented to show a causal relationship between alterations in serum lipoproteins and coronary disease and there is a somewhat polemic discussion of alternate hypotheses such as that of Duguid.

The articles by the pathologists among the contributors, i.e., on the kidney by D. B. Jones, on the anterior pituitary by Agnes Russfield, and on connective tissues by R. M. Wagner, describe the application of the newer staining techniques and histochemical methods to the investigation of disease processes affecting these tissues and attempt the correlation of altered cellular morphology with biochemical changes demonstrated by other methods.

The remaining articles are by physicians. The discussion by Ratnoff on three aspects of hepatic failure, cholaemia, ascites, and haemorrhagic phenomena, is selective rather than exhaustive but excellent in its treatment of modern work in this field. The attempt by Mueller and Vilter to formulate the pathogenesis of the various varieties of macrocytic anaemia in terms of blockage of various metabolic pathways for nucleoprotein synthesis is stimulating though as yet premature in the light of deficiencies in present knowledge in this field. The essay on abnormal haemoglobins by Will adds little to the numerous reviews already available on this topic and is already outdated by the discovery of further abnormal haemoglobins and by other recent work on the pathogenesis of hereditary haemolytic anaemias.

Most of the articles are well-documented, many listing between one and two hundred references each. While these are, as usual, largely to American sources, British work is not overlooked. Although the price of this volume is somewhat high it will serve as a useful reference source to those actively engaged in research on the topics discussed.

KENNETH WALTON.

Histological Technique, 3rd ed. By H. M. Carleton, with the collaboration of R. A. B. Drury. (Pp. xvi + 343; 19 figures. 30s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1957.

The appearance of the third edition of "Carleton," 19 years after the second edition, constitutes a fitting memorial to this distinguished Oxford histologist, who died late in 1956, just after completing the manuscript. In preparing this edition, the author had the benefit of collaboration with a pathologist, Dr. R. A. B. Drury, and a short foreword has been added by Professor Sir G. Roy Cameron.

Many pathologists—and even more pathological technicians—will have had a nostalgic attachment to the old "Carleton," which was for so many of us the bible which guided our first attempts at histological technique. For many years now, however, our old editions have rested more and more on the shelf as it has been necessary to use other sources for the newer techniques—both empirical and histochemical—which are gradually adding to, or replacing, the older methods. It is natural that we should look carefully at this new edition to see if the revisions effected can re-establish the volume's overall usefulness in the pathological laboratory.

We find that the volume ranges over an enormous field. It deals not only with tissue preparation, sectioning and staining, but also with the theory and practice of microscopy including dark-ground illumination, fluorescence microscopy, and even electron microscopy. When one adds that there are chapters on injection methods, histochemical techniques, methods for a great variety of special tissues, cells, cell structures, bacteria, and parasites, and that the volume remains a relatively small and convenient one, it is perhaps redundant to point out that the treatment of many of these subjects is superficial. For example, the periodic-acid-Schiff technique (not indexed in its own right) is given barely half a page for a description of the procedure and its significance; and the important methods for tissue enzymes, such as the phosphatases and esterases, are completely omitted.

But these are carping criticisms, for no volume of this size and price could have met the requirements of the advanced worker as well as the novice. This new revision brings "Carleton" back to its place as an eminently suitable guide for the technician up to his final examination in histological technique and for the pathologist in his earlier exploits amongst routine methods.

T. CRAWFORD.

Handbook of Histopathological Technique (Including Museum Technique). By C. F. A. Culling. (Pp. x + 446 + index; 79 figures. 45s.) London: Butterworth. 1957.

New technical methods are constantly being evolved, and Mr. Culling's book contains detailed accounts not only of the older and already stan-