BOOK REVIEWS

Muir's Textbook of Pathology, 7th ed., revised by D. F. Cappell. (Pp. xx+1,201; 733 figures. 70s.) London: Edward Arnold. 1958.

So excellent and widely known a textbook as Muir's needs little write-up from any reviewer, and, in the capable hands of Professor Cappell, the traditions of the work as a contemporary survey of the subject are admirably maintained. Since the last edition was published in 1951 a good deal of new material has collected. This has called for radical revision of the text, and the modest addition of 111 pages has meant the curtailment of topics of decreasing clinical importance, but a good proportion of these extra pages is to be accounted for by the addition of 100 illustrations.

The transfer of the section on repair of fractures to the more general chapter on inflammatory processes, the addition of a note on the collagen diseases, and the modernization of the section on fluid and electrolyte balance are but random examples testifying to the thoroughness of the revision. The treatment of diseases of the blood, which includes the more recent immunological researches in haematology, is particularly to be commended. In general this is a text upon which the undergraduate student may confidently rely.

DOROTHY S. RUSSELL.

An Introduction to Blood Group Serology. By Kathleen E. Boorman and Barbara E. Dodd. (Pp. viii+317; 30 figures, 43 tables. 40s.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1957.

It is always difficult, when undertaking a new book, to decide on the exact scope and then to keep the book within the set limits. Thus many books on blood serology become so involved with theoretical concepts that the practical side is lost sight of, or else the authors are so determined to make the book simple to follow technically that it becomes inadequate. The authors of this new book on blood serology have found a happy balance. In spite of the title they have kept their theoretical aspects to basic accepted principles and have devoted themselves to a carefully arranged plan of introduction to blood group serology which covers nearly all the known and accepted techniques, succinctly described, so that anyone can follow when reading for the first time of a new technique and can as easily use them as instructions for the bench. There is a most helpful, critical, comparative comment with each method. The authors come down firmly in favour of certain techniques, and the reasons are clearly stated. They have introduced a method of identifying the techniques by numbers, so that when describing more advanced methods the simpler techniques are identified by the number, thus avoiding repetition. Altogether 100 techniques are numbered and described, and the book ends with an appendix of 13 plain procedures such as identification of antibodies, paternity tests, investigation of a sus-

pected haemolytic transfusion reaction, etc., in which the technique for each group is indicated by the number, thus compressing into a few pages all the more usual laboratory techniques required. In all an admirable book for the routine laboratory worker, and no laboratory where blood grouping is carried out will in the future be without its "Boorman and Dodd," whose names are now as euphonically linked in blood serology as "Whitby and Britton" in haematology.

A. G. SIGNY.

The Cerebrospinal Fluid: Production, Circulation, and Absorption. A Ciba Foundation Symposium edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme and Cecilia M. O'Connor. (Pp. xii+335; 141 figures. 50s.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1958.

This volume contains the 17 contributions presented at the Ciba Foundation symposium on the "Production, Circulation, and Absorption of the Cerebrospinal Fluid" which was organized by Dr. H. N. H. Genese and held in May, 1957. They are in the nature of review articles and contain a résumé of the most recent research of their authors. In all there were, under the chairmanship of Professor G. A. G. Mitchell, 25 participants, and they ensured a series of lively discussions following each of the papers. Finally there was a general discussion. The editors are to be congratulated once more in so realistically representing these instructive debates to the reader: they have evolved a technique which is eminently of service to a wide range of interested persons.

There are so many matters of absorbing interest in these papers that it is impossible to comment on any of them individually other than to say that they well repay study by those who are concerned with the physiological mechanisms of the central nervous system and in particular by those who are interested in the clinical pathology of the cerebrospinal fluid.

W. H. McMENEY.

BOOKS RECEIVED

(Review in a later issue is not precluded by notice here of books received.)

Studies in Fertility 1956. Vol. VIII of the Proceedings of the Society for the Study of Fertility. Papers read at the London Conference, 1956. Edited by R. G. Harrison. (Pp. x+138; illustrated. 25s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1957.

Maladies-Vedettes (Maladies d'Avenir, Maladies Quotidiennes, Maladies d'Exception). By Fred Siguier. (Pp. 476; 36 figures; Fr. fr. 3,500.) Paris: Masson. 1957.

The Diagnosis and Treatment of Infections. By D. Geraint James. (Pp. viii+234. 30s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1957.

Rheumatoid Arthritis. By Charles L. Short, Walter Bauer, and William E. Reynolds. (Pp. x+480; illustrated. 55s.) Harvard University Press (London: Oxford University Press). 1957.