BOOK REVIEWS

Neuropathology. By J. G. Greenfield, W. Blackwood, A. Meyer, W. H. McMenemey, and R. M. Norman. (Pp. vi+640; 369 figures. 105s.) London: Edward Arnold. 1958.

This may be regarded as a monument to the doyen of British neuropathologists, Dr. Godwin Greenfield. The book was planned and edited by Dr. Greenfield, and not only was at least half of it written by him, but he advised on the sections written by his collaborators. Dr. Greenfield's knowledge of the pathology of the nervous system, studied by the classical methods of histopathology, was unrivalled, and in those sections of the book written by him will be found his matured views on a subject of which he was a master. The chapters on the general pathology of the cell and neuroglia, infections, traumatic and demyelinating diseases, as well as those on system degenerations, neuritis, and neuropathy, and lesions of the nervous system associated with malformations of the skeleton are all contributed by Dr. Greenfield himself.

Professor Meyer draws on his wide and unique experience to contribute valuable sections on epilepsy, psychoses of obscure pathology, and the effect of anoxia, intoxications, and metabolic disorders on the nervous system. This is an erudite section by one whose knowledge of the literature of these subjects is unsurpassed. Dr. Norman writes on malformations of the nervous system, birth injury, and diseases of early life, and has produced a beautifully illustrated chapter, the illustrations being from his own truly remarkable collection of cases. He is to be congratulated on the way in which he has presented an extremely difficult subject on which our knowledge of the fundamental disease processes is as yet woefully lacking. Another subject in which the pathology is obscure and the literature difficult and often conflicting is that of the dementias and progressive diseases of the basal ganglia, but Dr. McMenemey has presented a useful synthesis of what is known of the pathology of these diseases. Professor Blackwood contributes a most informative and valuable chapter on vascular disease of the central nervous system, and since cerebral vascular disease is one of the major causes of damage to and degeneration of the brain the importance of this subject cannot be overestimated.

As is inevitable with books of multiple authorship this volume shows a considerable degree of patchiness, and in places the emphasis is extremely odd. For instance, syphilis of the nervous system takes up 17 pages, while tuberculosis has only six devoted to it and poliomyelitis but four. The section on trauma of the nervous system needs extensive revision.

The bibliography is fairly complete, though there are surprising omissions, and it would be much improved if the titles of the articles to which it refers

were given, as is done in the better books and journals. For a textbook which sets out to be a serious work of reference, the absence of titles in the bibliography is, in this reviewer's opinion, a black mark. It is a cheeseparing and unworthy economy. There is also an annoying number of mistakes which will have to be corrected in the next edition, when this is called for, as it certainly will be. The index, so important a feature of a (good) work of reference, leaves much to be desired.

Nevertheless, this book, with its companion volume on the pathology of cerebral tumours, to be published in the near future, will for long remain a basic text on neuropathology. There is no great work on the pathology of the nervous system in the English language comparable with the gigantic German monograph edited by Henke and Lubarsch in five fat volumes, and Greenfield's book is the most complete text that is available to the English-speaking world. Even though all the available information is not always to be found, the inquirer can usually trace the original sources.

The book will be an essential reference work for the private libraries of all pathologists, and the less they have to do with the nervous system the more essential will the book be, for it will help them as can no other when a problem on the nervous system turns up in their work.

It will keep alive the memory of Godwin Greenfield, which will long be warmly remembered by pathologists.

P. M. DANIEL.

The Borderland of Embryology and Pathology. By R. A. Willis. (Pp. ix+627+index; 244 figures. 90s.) London: Butterworths. 1958.

Most practising pathologists have at some time felt the need for a greater knowledge of embryology to assist them in solving problems connected with the diagnosis of malformations. To those who have been fascinated by reading chapters in Bland-Sutton's book on tumours and Gould and Pyle's *Anomalies and Curiosities of Medicine*, Professor Willis's more basic and complete work will be especially welcome.

Although the material in the introductory chapters is available in textbooks of embryology, it is essential to have a clear and concise account of normal development as a prelude to the more practical information which is to follow. In the main part of the work where the emphasis is of necessity on structure it is pleasing to see functional aspects also treated, as, for example, in the discussion on the possible existence of cortical adrenal hormones in the foetus. Later on, when hamartomas are being strictly defined, the genetic aspects of these malformations are compared with those of inborn errors of metabolism, thus emphasizing once more the

necessity of allying structure with function. It is particularly gratifying to find a subject such as metaplasia, which receives scant attention in many works on pathology, dealt with so completely. When discussing repair and regeneration some clarity of definition is lost and it is a pity that a confusing and contradictory term such as "compensatory regenerative hyperplasia" has found its way into an otherwise excellent chapter. At the present time when the wider aspects of immunity are becoming appreciated the chapter on transplantation will be enjoyed by all.

It must have been difficult choosing a title for a work which deals with so many different topics. As in previous works Professor Willis has wisely selected essentially practical problems which concern pathologists and ones on which reliable information cannot always be readily obtained. The clarity of exposition and the concise rendering of the facts are well-known characteristics of the writer. Lists of references are very complete and it is again most valuable for the busy pathologist to have important review articles indicated for him in heavy type. Professor Willis is to be warmly congratulated on his latest work, and it is hard to see how any pathologist alive to his daily problems will be able to avoid the necessity of having a copy on his shelves.

GEORGE CUNNINGHAM.

Le Cancer de la Corde Vocale. By J. Piquet. (Pp. 204; 53 figures. Fr. fr. 1,600.) Paris: Masson et Cie. 1958.

This monograph on cancer of the vocal cord by Professor Piquet, of Lille, is the latest of an international series on otorhinolaryngological subjects.

The monograph contains chapters on aetiology, pre-cancerous states, pathology, and treatment. The style is somewhat discursive, and references are haphazard and inadequate. In a sketchy chapter on laryngeal and cervical lymphatics, in which just one poor and unlabelled illustration appears, there is the following reference:

"Pour la description classique des lymphatiques du larynx, le lecteur pourra se reporter à l'excellent *Traité d'anatomie de Rouvière*, où la question est traitée dans tous ses détails." (!)

Other references are to obscure sources or simply short quotations from discussions at meetings. A bias towards the Continental literature has occasionally resulted in serious lacunae. For instance, the author claims that teloradium techniques are of little value in the treatment of cancer of the larynx without even mentioning the important contributions and results of Lederman in this country. It is furthermore difficult for the English reader to accept Piquet's recommendations for local anaesthesia in total laryngectomy, but it must be remembered that this is in keeping with still much of Continental practice.

This monograph contains much material of interest. It is only a pity that it is marred by careless references and parochialism.

S. S. EPSTEIN.

Radioisotope Laboratory Techniques. By R. A. Faïres and B. H. Parks. (Pp. xii+244; illustrated. 25s.) London: George Newnes. 1957.

The increasing use of radioactive isotopes in general laboratories has made necessary a simple book providing the essential theory and practice of radioisotope techniques. The authors, with considerable teaching experience of the basic principles at the Harwell isotope school, have attempted to produce such a book, primarily for those with only an elementary knowledge of physics. Consequently, they have been compelled to be selective and have concentrated on practical details of choosing and using equipment, theory being kept to a minimum. Suggestions for further reading are given at the end of most chapters.

The first few chapters deal concisely and clearly with the elements of nuclear physics, the properties of radiations, the production of radio-isotopes, and the calculation of radiation dose rates. The chapters which follow, describing laboratory design, radioactive hazards, decontamination, and laboratory apparatus, contain much useful data and practical advice. The major part of the book, dealing with instrumentation and applications, is, however, not quite so successful. The reader with no knowledge of electronics, for whom this book is intended, would soon get lost in the technicalities of the electronic apparatus described. The authors have condensed the chapter on electronic techniques to the point where the explanation of terms frequently used in later chapters is either omitted or incomprehensible without previous knowledge.

Several chapters are devoted to descriptions of the construction and use of particle and radiation detecting equipment. These chapters are uneven in quality. As an example, the authors describe in great detail the types of gases used in Geiger-Müller counters, but give only a sketchy account of the use of some of these counters with no account at all of the use of liquid counters. Scintillation counters are dealt with inadequately, and the chapter on the choice of counting equipment is too brief. On the other hand, the important subject of the statistics of counting is adequately treated by rule-of-thumb methods.

The final chapters describe briefly some chemical and other applications of radio-isotopes and autoradiography (in rather more detail). No account is given of the use of radioactive tracers in medical or biological work. Although the ideal book for non-technical users of radioisotope techniques remains to be written, this book may be recommended as a useful practical guide to the subject.

M. LUBRAN.

Textbook of Virology, 3rd ed. By A. J. Rhodes and C. E. van Rooyen. (Pp. xv+607; 81 figures. 80s.) London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1958.

This edition, larger by 70 pages, maintains the high standard of presentation of the 1953 edition. It is beautifully printed and well illustrated. The authors'