

BOOK REVIEWS

A Text on Systemic Pathology, Vol. II. Edited by Otto Saphir. (Pp. xvi+1,084; 979 figures. \$38.) New York: Grune and Stratton. 1959.

This large, two-volume book is edited and written by a well-known team of pathologists. The method has been to divide the subject matter systemically and that has many benefits. Nevertheless, it has also the defects of its merits, particularly in overlapping between the sections. It would have been profitable if the editor had integrated the different sections and cut out as much as possible of the overlapping material when he had received all his contributions. Also, as so often happens when a book is written by a team of authors, the balance is occasionally somewhat odd; thus there are 32 pages devoted to hermaphroditism whereas the whole subject of infective hepatitis is dismissed in 12 pages. The whole effect is a series of authoritative single articles on specialist themes which are most useful for the specialist but retain this air of inadequacy as a reference book for a large field of study.

The book is most excellently produced, particularly the photomicrographs. A. GORDON SIGNY.

A Ciba Foundation Symposium on Amino Acids and Peptides with Antimetabolic Activity. Edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme and Cecilia M. O'Connor. (Pp. xii+286; 28 figures. 45s.). London: Churchill. 1958.

This symposium in March, 1958, brought together workers in the two fields of tumour inhibitors and of antibiotics under the chairmanship of Professor Bergel. There were 30 participants from nine countries, and 17 papers were given. The discussions ranged from the chemistry and synthesis of these agents through their mode of action to their therapeutic effect. This is a highly specialized book, and although it will be of great interest to workers in these fields it is heavy going for the general reader. G. K. MCGOWAN.

Clinical Flame Photometry. By Henry A. Teloh. (Pp. xvi+103; 36 tables, 9 figures. 34s.). Illinois: Charles C. Thomas; Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1959.

The estimation of the blood electrolytes is an everyday procedure largely due to the introduction of a rapid method for the estimation of sodium and potassium by making use of the flame photometer. Dr. H. A. Teloh, of the Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago, has written a small manual describing some of the methods available for sodium, potassium, calcium, and magnesium. There are a few chapters on the theory of emission spectrophotometry, the general design of the instruments, and some of the dangers inherent in the techniques.

Provided one is fortunate in possessing a Beckman apparatus the methods are valuable, but only two methods use other models, one a German and the other an English, but some of the techniques could be adapted for equipment available outside America. However, the various methods recommended are well described and could be readily followed.

It seemed to the reviewer unfortunate that Figs. 5 and 6 should be presented some 20 pages after being mentioned, and also after the appearance of Figs. 7 and 8. Another small feature which to the English reader is unusual is the use of gm. instead of g. as the abbreviation for a measure of weight.

Despite these minor criticisms the book can fill an important place on the shelves of the hospital biochemist, and will be of much practical value to him. J. N. CUMINGS.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Biomicroscopie du Corps Vitré et du Fond de l'Oeil. By A. Busacca, H. Goldmann, and S. Schiff-Wertheimer. (Pp. 382; 144 figures, 40 colour plates. Fr. fr. 8,000.) Paris: Masson. 1957.

An Introduction to Medical Laboratory Technology, 2nd ed. By F. J. Baker, R. E. Silvertown, and Eveline D. Luckcock. (Pp. xiv+408; 118 figures. 35s.) London: Butterworth. 1957.

The Planning and Organization of Central Syringe Services. (Pp. 59. 2s. 6d.) London: The Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust. 1958.