

**A Laboratory Manual on Abnormal Haemoglobins.**

Prepared under the direction of J. H. P. Jonxis and T. H. J. Huisman for the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences and the Middle East Science Co-operation Office of U.N.E.S.C.O. (Pp. vii+39; 12 figures. 9s. 6d.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1958.

This book contains in small compass the essentials for laboratory diagnosis of conditions which are characterized by abnormal haemoglobins. It will be of service not only to workers in this special field throughout the world, but, because of its clarity, to workers in general haematology. After an introductory section, physico-chemical techniques, including electrophoresis, and haematological studies are described. There are several minor errors of final proof correction on page 4 under "diagnostic methods," where page references are inaccurate. Although there is no index, references are particularly well placed at relevant sections. Two tables at the end of the book which show biochemical characteristics of the human haemoglobin types and clinical and haematological features complete a manual on which the authors are to be congratulated.

E. K. BLACKBURN.

**The ABO Blood Groups: Comprehensive Tables and Maps of World Distribution.** By A. E. Mourant, Ada C. Kopeć, and Kazimiera Domaniewska-Sobczak. (Pp. viii+276. 42s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1958.

The work embodied here was originally intended to be included in *The Distribution of the Human Blood Groups*, by A. E. Mourant, but so exhaustive a survey of the frequency of the ABO groups in the world population would have unduly increased the size of this book and moreover merited a volume of its own.

The authors have brought together all data published up to the end of 1957 on the frequency of the ABO blood groups (including A<sub>1</sub> A<sub>2</sub> BO groups) in world-wide human populations. This comprehensive information is presented in tables and maps, and includes figures and calculations which give the reader the opportunity of assessing for himself the reliability of the collected data.

There is a short introduction which, in addition to explaining the plan of the book, leaves the reader greatly impressed by the magnitude of the work and the meticulous searching of the literature so ably undertaken.

The material presented will greatly interest all blood-group enthusiasts and will be of much value to anthropologists and geneticists.

BARBARA DODDS.

**Cancer of the Skin.** By John C. Belisario; Foreword by A. C. Cipollaro. (Pp. xvii+321+Index; 201 figures. 50s.) London: Butterworth. 1959.

This is a valuable treatise on cancer of the skin which will appeal to the dermatologist, radiotherapist,

and pathologist. It is well illustrated and contains 201 figures and eight excellent coloured plates. The author has worked in Australia, where the incidence of skin cancer, due mainly to the greater number of sunlight hours, is much higher than in Britain. He has personally treated patients, using radiotherapy and surgery when the occasion demanded, so he can write authoritatively on this aspect.

The term kerato-acanthoma is now the one most frequently used for lesions which may exhibit the clinical characteristics of rodent or squamous carcinomas and which may be benign and self-terminating. A chapter devoted to such lesions includes the most useful recent literature, and the author describes how an accurate microscopical diagnosis may not always be possible.

In the chapter on malignant melanomas, Dr. Belisario rightly insists on literal accuracy, and he proceeds to adopt a nomenclature which seems acceptable to the pathologist. While sarcomas of the skin are relatively rare tumours, little mention is made of leiomyosarcoma, but multiple idiopathic sarcoma of the Kaposi type is described in great detail.

This monograph will be well received by those concerned with cancer of the skin, in particular the practising dermatologist. The general pathologist will find it a valuable reference book, but in some chapters lack of histological details and staining techniques make it less useful for the specialist pathologist.

A. DICK.

**Symposium on Nuclear Sex.** Edited by D. Robertson Smith and William M. Davidson. (Pp. xiii+188; illustrated. 21s.) London: Heinemann. 1958.

In September, 1957, only eight years after the discovery of the sex differences in cell nuclei by Barr and Bertram, a symposium on nuclear sex was held in London at which Professor Barr gave the opening and concluding addresses. Especially in view of the remarkably rapid advances in this field, it is valuable to have this interim report as a record of expert opinion at that time. The 22 papers were read by authorities from Great Britain, Canada, U.S.A., Europe, and Israel.

The papers are produced verbatim and the discussions on them are printed in full. The editors, being the chairman and secretary of the organizing committee, have published a readable account and have included a full bibliography on each paper. The book is divided into three sections with an adequate contents list but no index, and the quality of the production, including the illustrations, is excellent. Even the amateur (perhaps aided by a glossary from elsewhere) will find it pleasant reading. In the foreword, Sir Robert Platt remarks that this was one of the most exciting and enjoyable congresses he ever attended, and its spirit is so well conveyed in this book that the reader will join him in gratitude to the organizers.