

The book cannot be too highly recommended to the clinical pathologist with an interest in histology.

A. G. MARSHALL.

Polymyositis. By John W. Walton and Raymond D. Adams. (Pp. x+270; 47 figures. 32s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1958.

The concept of an acute or subacute polymyositis, occurring alone or associated with such diseases as scleroderma, dermatomyositis or rheumatoid arthritis, is well recognized. The present monograph is an attempt to broaden this concept so as to include a variety of more chronic conditions, conditions which are otherwise extremely difficult to classify. This attempt is based on a personal series of 40 cases, 17 derived from a retrospective analysis of biopsy material. Of the 17 patients thus studied, nine still survived at the time of the investigation. This monograph derives much, too, from the wide experience of the authors in the experimental investigation of muscle disease.

Their definition of "polymyositis," because of its controversial nature, merits quotation. The condition (p. 184) may affect patients of either sex and of any age. Typically, the presenting symptom is weakness of the girdle and proximal limb muscles, although any muscle may be affected. There may be associated malignant disease. The condition may be fatal, may remit spontaneously, and may respond to cortisone. The muscle lesions include necrosis, vacuolar or granular degeneration, and phagocytosis: areas of regeneration are also found. Fibres vary in size, and there may be central migration of muscle-cell nuclei. Perivascular and interstitial infiltrations by inflammatory cells are seen. The breadth of this definition will be immediately apparent to the diagnostic pathologist, and indeed it is further emphasized by the statement that patients may not experience pain and tenderness in the muscles; and by the fact that in four of the 35 cases investigated histologically there was no cellular infiltration to establish the presence of an inflammatory lesion.

The authors are aware of the terminological and diagnostic difficulties implicit in so broad a concept of polymyositis. Indeed, among the most valuable features of their monograph is the clarity with which they have reviewed the literature and analysed the classification and nomenclature of muscle disease. In particular, their account of the differential diagnosis between chronic polymyositis and progressive muscular dystrophy is likely to be of great practical value. Some will perhaps question their claim that in the diverse and often chronic manifestations of polymyositis there is a single underlying disease process, related to that of the other collagen diseases. On the other hand, a detailed well-documented and well-illustrated monograph of this kind, in which the emphasis throughout is on the natural history of the disease, is bound to be most welcome to all those who are interested in the pathology of skeletal muscle.

W. ST. C. SYMMERS.

OBITUARY

R. B. H. GRADWOHL

Rutherford Birchard Hayes Gradwohl, who died on May 9, 1959, at St. Louis, Missouri, at the age of 82 years, was born in Baltimore, Maryland, his father having emigrated there from Strasbourg in 1855. Although his original ambition was to enter the United States Naval Academy, after his parents moved to St. Louis he chose medicine as a career and in 1898 graduated from Washington University School of Medicine. He began his internship at St. Louis City Hospital, and here showed the qualities which were to be the foundation of his life and career, an enthusiastic interest supported by untiring energy to improve his own knowledge especially in relation to pathology and pathological facilities. Thus in 1898 he was pressing for improvement in the laboratory facilities in the St. Louis City Hospital with success, and in 1899 he was working with Dr. A. Ravold on the bacteriological problems of the city water supply, which were not unconnected with the Chicago Drainage Canal. Having saved sufficient money, in 1900 he set out for Europe, stopping on his way to visit Sir William Osler in Baltimore. After studying pathology and chemistry for a short time at Heidelberg he obtained the position of volunteer assistant to Professor R. Langerhans in Berlin, and while there attended the classes of Virchow. He finally returned to St. Louis after spending a year at the Pasteur Institute in Paris. He was then appointed to a teaching position in bacteriology and pathology at the Marion Sims-Beaumont Medical School, later to become St. Louis University, and eked out his salary of 25 dollars a month by becoming one of the coroner's necropsy physicians.

Apart from taking an active part in the improvement of medico-legal facilities throughout the U.S.A. and developing the crime laboratory in St. Louis, he was the original convener of a meeting in St. Louis which resulted in the formation of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in 1948. He is probably, however, best known for his book *Clinical Laboratory Methods and Diagnosis* which was first published in 1936, although in 1914 he had written a book on blood and urine chemistry in association with Mr. J. Blaivas, and in 1932 another on *Laboratory Technique* with his wife and niece. He also translated Schilling's *Das Blutbild*. Gradwohl founded the first school for training laboratory technicians in 1920, a remarkable example of his foresight.

It was perhaps most significant that when he returned home from Berlin on his first visit he brought back with him a copy in his own handwriting of the inscription over the entrance to Virchow's necropsy room and that he still possessed it at his death. "Hic Locus Est Ubi Mors Gaudet Succerrere Vitae."

F. E. CAMPS.

He is meticulous in the differentiation between "atherosclerotic lesions" and "simple internal arteriosclerosis," and in the difference between morbid anatomical studies, biochemical blood analyses, and clinical findings. Unfortunately he analyses what is already known to describe a state of subclinical coronary heart disease, about which so little is known. However, to criticize informed speculation into such a vitally important problem is unfair. He provides all the data, and if the reader comes to a different conclusion it is for him to produce further work and change the argument.

The reviewer feels that this is an excellent, slightly "over-written" book, which is the work of an enthusiast and as such should be read by pathologists, although possibly not in its entirety. There are no illustrations.

RAYMOND DALEY.

Pancreatitis. By Herman T. Blumenthal and J. G. Probstin; Foreword by R. M. Zollinger. (Pp. xiv + 379; 58 figures. 72s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas; Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1959.

This monograph presents a clinico-pathological correlation based on a study of 163 necropsies on

patients dying from pancreatitis. It is divided into five parts dealing successively with statistical considerations, physiological disturbances, pathological anatomy, clinical features, and therapy. The section on pathology occupies some 75 pages and includes a full account of the normal embryology and anatomy of the pancreas. Clinical pathology is less fully dealt with, and it is perhaps unfortunate that very little indeed is said on the subject of chronic pancreatitis. Perhaps the greatest use of this book will be in the very full bibliography which it includes. This should render it invaluable as a source of references to anybody who is making a special study of pancreatic pathology, or indeed of any other aspect of pancreatitis.

T. CRAWFORD.

Correction

We regret that the review of "Polymyositis" published on page 92 of the January issue (*J. clin. Path.*, 13, 92) was wrongly attributed to W. St. C. Symmers. It was in fact written by J. C. Sloper.

Association of Clinical Pathologists Broadsheets

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