

surgery, combined therapy, the treatment of bacterial endocarditis, the dangers of antibiotic treatment, the laboratory control and uses of antibiotics, and finally the search for new ones. Space precludes individual mention of all of the contributions, but it is hoped that enough has been said to whet the reader's appetite for a most valuable collection of essays.

MARY BARBER.

Textbook of Microbiology, 17th ed. By William Burrows; with the collaboration of Richard Janvier Porter and James William Moulder. (Pp. xxiii+954; 301 figures. 98s.) Philadelphia and London: Saunders. 1959.

The 17th edition of Burrows' textbook maintains the high standard of its predecessors both in production and in the excellent survey it gives of every aspect of a rapidly advancing field. In many respects it can be compared only with two other American publications of the past two years, namely Zinsser's *Bacteriology*, 11th edition, 1957, and Dubos's *Bacterial and Mycotic Infections of Man*, 3rd edition, 1958. With the others it attempts, and very largely succeeds, in condensing into less than 1,000 pages all the most important work, beginning with cytology, thence through metabolism and immunity, to a study of the microbes themselves and their special role as disease agents. Especially useful are the clear and very readable accounts of bacterial metabolism, chemotherapeutic drugs and of variation and resistance, all of which have become increasingly important to bacteriologists.

Because of their size and the vast amount of detailed information given, books such as that under review must rank as reference works, indispensable to the laboratory worker but useful both to the teacher and student for the invaluable summaries which they contain. This textbook is too comprehensive for the medical student, unless he wishes to make microbiology his special study, and the same is true for clinical workers. One feels that in places the needs of the latter have been neglected, as in the following example. Staphylococcal cross-infection in hospitals is now a widespread and serious problem everywhere. The control of such infections and a study of their epidemiology by such measures as phage-typing are of immense importance to the clinical worker, yet the matter is hardly mentioned in the volume reviewed, a very serious omission which should be remedied in this and all other textbooks which hope to be of help and interest to the clinical pathologist.

(Late) E. S. DUTHIE.

Bacteriology for Students of Dental Surgery, 2nd ed. By R. B. Lucas and Ivor R. H. Kramer. (Pp. viii+288; 1 colour plate and 58 figures. 27s. 6d.) J. and A. Churchill. London. 1959.

This excellent little book contains all the information needed by the dental student on microbiology. The subject is approached from the medical rather than a narrow dental point of view, and there is an

accurate, though necessarily brief, description of the major pathogens. One feels that the condemnation of the now discredited focal sepsis theory could be more outspoken, particularly as it is going to be read by future dental surgeons. The section on subacute endocarditis stresses the importance of dental hygiene in the evolution of this malady, but omits to suggest that antibiotic administration before and after dental treatment in patients with valvular disease might reduce the dangers of this serious condition. The book is nicely produced and illustrated, and the authors deserve praise for a fine piece of work.

S. D. ELEK.

Clinical Chemical Pathology, 2nd ed. By C. H. Gray. (Pp. viii+160; 28 figures. 14s.) London: Edward Arnold. 1959.

Professor Gray has revised and improved his popular little book on chemical pathology for its second edition. He has deleted many out-of-date methods of investigation (an example which could be followed by other textbook writers) and could still have deleted more. The U.M.I. of Heilmeyer and the Takata-Ara reaction have had their day, and the augmented histamine test should be standard practice. The information is sound, recent, and well presented, and the book is extremely lucid and readable, which would make it especially welcome for students. Pathologists will find it particularly useful in the selection of appropriate biochemical tests, and for support in advising clinical colleagues on the lack of value of rarely performed complex investigations. The guides to further reading can be commended.

The sections on diabetes and on liver function are particularly good; indeed, this contributes to the only real criticism of the book, namely a lack of balance. If Professor Gray had written other sections to the same scale as these, then he would have given us a textbook which could have been unreservedly recommended; but he would then have had to expand. Protein seems particularly neglected, and the electrophoretic patterns (p. 136) are not typical; where are the usually low albumin of myelomatosis, and the high α_2 globulin and low γ -globulin of the nephrotic syndrome? I also would not agree that analysis of serum potassium is of no value in investigating potassium depletion. Some of the terminology could be changed for the next edition, e.g., g. *not* gm.; proteinuria *not* albuminuria; *not* pint as equivalent to 500 ml.

Misprints are very few (I noticed 1 instead of 10 in the normal range of transaminases), and the book is cheap, well produced, and easy to handle. It should find a place in many a white-coat pocket.

D. N. BARON.

Protides of the Biological Fluids, 6th Colloquium 1958. Edited by H. Peeters. (Pp. ix+330; 171 figures, 60 tables. 45s.) London: D. Van Nostrand. 1959.

Every year since 1953 a conference has been held in Bruges and is concerned with proteins and electro-