The chapters on counting techniques are largely useless and are in no way improved by the many illustrations of boxes of electronic equipment which have no difficulty in preserving their anonymity behind their front panels. The theoretical bases of some of the problems are poorly explained, others, e.g., those involving multicompartment systems, are not discussed at all.

The allotment of space to methods and interpretations bears little relation to their importance; for instance, 10 pages are devoted to the problem of B_{12} absorption, but only 13 to the whole of the cardiovascular system, electrolyte and fluid spaces, and protein metabolism. Indeed, these latter subjects cannot be said to have been properly presented at all.

There are extensive but largely uncritical reviews of the literature relating to medical isotopes, and 64 out of the 381 pages of text are devoted to pointless tables including logarithm tables and that ubiquitous du Bois surface area nomogram.

You may have all this for six guineas.

C. J. HAYTER.

The Anti-Globulin (Coombs) Test in Laboratory Practice. By I. Dunsford and Jean Grant. (Pp. xiii+120; 11 tables, 9 figures. 12s. 6d.). Edinburgh and London: Oliver and Boyd. 1959.

This book is admirably written by two leading authorities on the subject of the antiglobulin reaction or Coombs test. The test has not only proved of great importance in the advancement of knowledge in various biological sciences with particular reference to blood groups, but it is widely used in hospital blood transfusion practice for the prediction and diagnosis of haemolytic disease of the newborn and also to enhance the safety of many other blood transfusion procedures. The authors explain the fundamentals of the test from all angles in a style which is both lucid and informative. They include comprehensive references to the world literature and make suggestions for further reading which may help in relation to individual problems. The work, which is delightfully produced and of modest price, is recommended strongly. It should be on the bookshelves of bacteriologists, haematologists, blood transfusion workers, forensic and veterinary scientists, and last, but not least, those medical students and practitioners interested in that field.

E. K. BLACKBURN.

Forensic Medicine. By A. Keith Mant. (Pp. vii+262; 114 figures. 42s.) London: Lloyd-Luke. 1959.

This is a further addition to the already numerous small textbooks of forensic medicine. It may be classified as one of the "horrific" class from the point of view of some of the illustrations, for similar photographs have caused comment by members of the legal profession in the past, but it is difficult to see why

juries should be spared them if they are of value. For police officers, the approach is inclined to be too medical, and it is elementary for pathologists and incomplete for general practitioners, one of whose main interests must be the problems of "alcoholic intoxication" which, somewhat surprisingly, are omitted.

The production is very good and the illustrations well printed, but it seems a pity that many of the individuals could be recognized. It does not seem to be an "essential" for the bookshelf of clinical pathologists, medico-legally interested or otherwise.

F. CAMPS.

A Textbook of Bacteriology, 8th ed. revised and enlarged. By R. W. Fairbrother. (Pp. vii+502; 7 plates, 32 tables. 25s.) London: Heinemann. 1959.

Fairbrother's well-known textbook is now in its eighth edition and retains the characters of reliability and conciseness which have made it so valuable to medical students. It now includes brief reference to many of the newly described viruses as well as to the newer antibiotics and other recent developments, but these have not managed to oust a good many references to ideas or to methods that are now superseded.

R. E. O. WILLIAMS.

The Biochemical Response to Injury. Report of a symposium organized by C.I.O.M.S., Vienna, 1958. (Pp. xi+467; illustrated. 57s. 6d.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1960.

This is a report of a symposium organized by C.I.O.M.S. following the fourth International Congress of Biochemistry in Vienna in September, 1958. The Chairman was very appropriately Dr. D. P. Cuthbertson, whose pioneer work on the metabolic response to trauma 30 years ago has stood the test of time, and on whose early observations has been built much of the more recent work. It is sometimes doubtful how useful is the publication of symposia, which may have been of the greatest value to the participants, but are of less lasting general interest; there is no doubt that this publication is very well justified: it deals with a subject of growing importance, from both the experimental and clinical points of view. "Shock" is still a condition which it is impossible to define accurately, but the more we know of the metabolic changes which occur after trauma the nearer we are to understanding it, and the more rational will be the treatment.

The participants include many of the leading workers in this field from all over the world, and the contributions give a very stimulating approach to many problems. This is a book which should be widely available, and should be referred to frequently, not only by pathologists, but even more by surgeons.

E. N. ALLOTT.