

valuable as a practical working classification as long as it is appreciated that many members of this group are aetiologically distinct.

Current trends in leukaemia are covered by R. Doll (the incidence of leukaemia and environmental factors); F. G. H. Hayhoe (clinical and cytological differentiation of leukaemia); H. E. M. Kay (marrow transplantation); and D. A. G. Galton (chemotherapy). This catholic selection is rounded off by three complementary lectures on coagulation mechanisms in which R. M. Hardisty discusses the haemostatic process, a considerable undertaking achieved in roughly 14 pages of text; G. I. C. Ingram makes comments on disordered blood coagulation with the same commendable brevity and J. F. Ackroyd describes the pathogenesis of purpura.

The underlying motive for such a symposium is very praiseworthy, and it is sensible that the lectures given should be made available for more general reference. For this to be successful, however, publication should follow as closely as possible upon delivery and it is a pity that nine months elapsed before general distribution. The price is high for this kind of book and it would seem preferable to aim at a cheaper and possibly more rapidly produced publication; by their nature, lectures of this sort remain extant for only a short period of time and are seldom of value for reference purposes beyond the half-life of a 'paperback'. One possible economy would be the exclusion of photographic illustrations which do not contribute very much to the text: those reproduced from colour plates in another publication are frankly disappointing.

One can hope for a second symposium in a year or so: it will be interesting to see how markedly the subject matter and emphasis change.

J. L. STAFFORD

PEDIATRIC PATHOLOGY. By D. Stowens. (Pp. xiii + 750; 374 figures. 160s.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1959.

This 'Pediatric Pathology' is a remarkable book, the attempt of a single author to describe and illustrate comprehensively the pathology, and in particular the morbid anatomy, of the diseases of infants and children. This Dr. Stowens has achieved by making use not only of his own extensive experience, but also of the resources of the American Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, where in recent years a Registry of Pediatric Pathology has been formed. The most striking feature of this book is the excellence of the illustrations, the majority of which are derived from this Institute, those from the Scholz collection being quite outstanding. These illustrations are almost all photomicrographs, and would serve alone to recommend the book to those who, like the author of this review, tend primarily to assess such a text in terms of its practical value in the analysis of the day-to-day problems of histopathology. Dr. Stowens, however, has attempted to produce rather more than a general analysis of paediatric pathology, for, as he notes in his preface, 'the book is replete with hypotheses, new terms, altered classifications and unanswered questions'. This personal approach enlivens the text, but it must be admitted that some of the ideas put forward

would be easier to judge if the extensive references given at the end of each chapter were coupled by numbers to specific statements in the text. It is difficult, for example, to assess the author's justification for claiming that many tumours of the adrenal are in reality 'non-chromaffin paragangliomas': or again, for stating that craniopharyngiomas should not be so named unless they exhibit the 'classical elements' of an adamantinoma. It would be of value also, if in future editions the author were to adduce in greater detail the evidence upon which he bases his rather complex theory of neoplasia, and again his firm conviction that 'the umbilical cord' rarely plays 'a primary role in circulatory failure in the fetus'. In future editions too, the proof requires more careful correction. It is perhaps the mark of a pedant to be irritated by such words as 'supercede, accessibility, tuber cinerum, neurohypothesis, syncitial, Antischkow, tetrology and supra-cellular cyst'. On the other hand, the following sentence, which appears in the preface, is difficult to understand; in discussing his own views, the author notes that 'they are merely ideas on subjects about which no ideas have been expressed or those hypotheses about which, largely derived from thoughts gained by observations on adults, do not fit the facts as seen in children.'

These, however, are minor faults in a text of such length. This 'Pediatric Pathology' is essentially a reference book, the value of which lies in its completeness, the clarity of its descriptions, and the excellence of its illustrations. On these scores it will, undoubtedly, prove of the greatest use to paediatricians, paediatric pathologists, and general pathologists alike.

J. C. SLOPER

METHODS OF GEOGRAPHICAL PATHOLOGY. Report of the Study Group convened by The Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences. Established under the joint auspices of UNESCO and WHO. Edited by Richard Doll. (Pp. 72. 9s. 6d.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1959.

Many who regard geographical pathology as a new development will be surprised to learn that the first textbook on this subject was published about 100 years ago. Geographical pathology, which has received much attention during recent years, studies the distribution of certain diseases in different countries and race groups. Such studies originally consisted of surveys of infectious disease and were therefore included under epidemiology. It is now suggested that many advances might result from the pursuit of similar methods in chronic and degenerative diseases.

The Council for the International Organization of Medical Sciences (C.I.O.M.S.) convened a study group of 'persons with broad interest in pathology and clinical medicine as well as experts in the modern techniques of surveys'. This small book is an excellent report of the study group's findings, and has been very ably edited by Dr. Doll. Details are given of the methods used in geographical pathology and guidance given on registration schemes. A valuable chapter deals with conditions which lend themselves particularly to this type of investigation and the book ends with two appendices giving accounts of a survey on normal blood pressure and hypertension

in Formosa, and of a cancer survey in Johannesburg. Dr. Doll, who played a prominent part in the survey of eclampsia and pre-eclampsia given last year at the International Society of Geographical Pathology meeting in London, is to be congratulated on his editorship of this very useful publication. It will do much to stimulate interest in this valuable approach to the study of disease.

GEORGE J. CUNNINGHAM

CONTROLLED CLINICAL TRIALS. Papers delivered at the Conference convened by The Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences. Organized under the direction of Professor A. Bradford Hill. (Pp. vii + 177; 40 figures. 20s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1960.

The need for the clinical trial is becoming better appreciated with the increasing number of therapeutic agents available. Although the benefit of some of these substances is clear-cut, there are many in which it is more difficult to assess their worth. In modern times the clinical trial is a scientific method which has replaced the older method of personal observation. The earlier papers delivered at this conference give guidance on the selection of suitable material for these trials and indicate pitfalls which must be avoided. A series of papers deals with trials carried out on such a wide variety of conditions as 'antihistamine drugs in the treatment of the common cold', 'sore throat', 'tuberculosis', and 'malignant disease'. The assessment of the results is very adequately dealt with and the book concludes with two excellent chapters by Sir George Pickering and by the Chairman, Professor A. Bradford Hill. The production of this volume is of a high standard and the publishers are to be congratulated.

GEORGE J. CUNNINGHAM

HISTOPLASMOSIS. Edited by Henry C. Sweany. (Pp. xiv + 538; illustrated. £5 16s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications; Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1960.

This book is a comprehensive account of all aspects of histoplasmosis, each chapter being written by one or more contributors with wide experience in that particular field. Such a book could only be American, since all the important information about the disease has been elicited in the endemic areas of that country; many contributors have been responsible for important advances in the knowledge of this subject and may be truly described as authorities.

The original chapter outlines the history of the disease with a dozen photographs of investigators who have contributed to the subject. From then on detailed descriptions of the organism and its growth characteristics, geographical distribution, the epidemiology of the disease, methods of identification, pathogenesis in animals and man, pathology, radiology, clinical types, diagnostic problems, and therapy, follow. Literature references extend to 1958, and there must be little of importance at that time which is omitted from the volume.

The illustrations are numerous and of excellent quality, and the text, with an occasional notable exception, well written and very readable.

The main criticism of the volume is its unnecessary bulk (and price), which has presumably resulted from the unwillingness of the editor to modify the contributions of his distinguished colleagues. Whatever the reason, repetition is considerable, both in the text and in illustrations; and surely the references could have been gathered together at the end instead of after each chapter, so that many appear in full on numerous occasions. All told they occupy over 40 pages and are not even uniformly set out, some being listed alphabetically, others numerically as they occur in the text. Similarly, it would surely be reasonable to decide whether summaries are needed after each chapter or at the end of the book. The book could be two-thirds its present size and not suffer one bit.

Nevertheless, anyone interested in histoplasmosis will find it a mine of information. And even if one is not particularly interested, it is salutary to read an account of a disease which, until recent years, has been largely misdiagnosed or ignored. The story of this disease is a timely reminder, as the editor points out, that the pathological diagnosis of 'chronic granuloma' should be a diagnostic challenge and not, as is so commonly the case, accepted as an answer. Prolonged antibacterial therapy may be expected to increase the prevalence of fungal infection; perusal of this volume will make the reader less likely to overlook this possibility.

B. E. TOMLINSON

EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CANCER CONGRESS

The eighth international cancer congress will take place in Moscow from 22 to 28 July 1962, under the auspices of the International Union Against Cancer. The Congress will meet at the Moscow State University, and will consider both experimental and clinical aspects of the problem.

The registration fee is 30 U.S. dollars per member, if sent before 1 April 1962.

Applications to read papers will be considered only on condition that both the application and abstract of the paper (not exceeding 250 words) are submitted not later than 1 November 1961.

All information concerning the Congress, as well as enrolment forms and applications to read papers and show cinematograph films, may be obtained from the General Secretary of the Soviet National Organizing Committee, Professor L. Shabad, or the Assistant General Secretary, Dr. N. Perevodchickova, Academy of Medical Sciences of the U.S.S.R., 14, Solyanka, Moscow, U.S.S.R.

LOCUM BUREAU

The locum bureau is still proving useful both for pathologists wishing to be locums and for pathologists requiring locums. A new system for operating the bureau is now in operation. Anyone interested should get in touch with Dr. Anne Gibson, The South London Hospital, Clapham, S.W.4, Telephone number: TULse Hill 1221.