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. Perevodchikova, 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.