

Book reviews

A CIBA FOUNDATION SYMPOSIUM ON CELLULAR ASPECTS OF IMMUNITY. Edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme and Maeve O'Connor. (Pp. xii + 495; 117 figures. 60s.) London: Churchill. 1960.

Many distinguished names in the field of immunology have contributed to this, the most recent volume sponsored by the Ciba Foundation, which represents the proceedings of a symposium on problems concerning the cellular aspects of immunity. It contains many thought-provoking concepts of the immune state as interpreted in the light of recent experimental findings, and not the least stimulating facet of the lavishly illustrated book are the discussions which follow each chapter. The significance of the central role played by the immunologically competent cell in immunology has been duly stressed by the contribution of Simonsen, Bernhard, Thiéry and Dixon.

There is a valuable chapter by Medawar summarizing the obstacles which beset the formation of an adequate theory of immunological tolerance and indicating the lines for future research in this field. The phenomena of the delayed hypersensitivity and homograft reactions, the cellular origins of the serum proteins related to immunity, the properties of transfer factor, and studies on antibody formation are discussed in the light of recent findings.

The book also affords a valuable summary of the expansive literature on immunology and is recommended to all who are interested in the subject.

FRANCIS MARTIN

A LABORATORY HANDBOOK OF BLOOD TRANSFUSION TECHNIQUES. By A. Derek Farr. (Pp. xi + 135; 34 figures. 17s. 6d.) London: Heinemann. 1961.

The author of this small book sets out to describe the practice of blood transfusion as seen from the laboratory point of view. He described the details of preparing the apparatus, the anticoagulant solutions, and the types of collecting and giving sets. The techniques of sterilization of both the solutions and the apparatus are well documented as are the sterilization control methods.

The whole sequence of events from selection of donors, collection of blood, storage, blood grouping, compatibility testing, administration, and possible transfusion reactions, is adequately treated.

It is well written in a fresh, terse style, while the clear and well-chosen illustrations enhance the value of the text.

The book is not intended as a complete compendium on the subject of blood transfusion techniques, but rather as a companion to a work on blood transfusion serology. Those engaged in the transfusion service will find this volume useful, but because it lacks the detail of transfusion serology, it cannot be regarded as a complete manual for workers in hospital blood banking, but in its chosen field, it achieves its aim of providing authoritative information on the laboratory aspects of blood transfusion. It would appear to be written mainly for techni-

cians and for them it provides an accurate and helpful source of useful information at modest cost.

M. G. NELSON

CHROMATOGRAPHIC AND ELECTROPHORETIC TECHNIQUES. Edited by Ivor Smith. Vol. I: Chromatography, 2nd ed. (Pp. xxii + 671; 177 figures. 65s.); Vol. II: Zone Electrophoresis, 1st ed. (Pp. viii + 215; 186 figures. 30s.) London: Heinemann. 1960.

The appearance of a new and much expanded edition of this work, less than three years after the original, testifies both to its popularity and to the rapid progress being made in this field. A quick glance at the list of contents is enough to show that chromatographic procedures now have their applications in nearly all spheres of biochemical investigation. New chapters have been devoted to such topics as dinitro-phenyl aminoacids, iodoaminoacids, plant phenols and tannins, phospholipids, barbiturates, and glutarimides, and the earlier chapters have been expanded and brought up to date. The sections of aminoacids, sugars, indoles, and steroids are of particular value to the hospital laboratory worker, but it may only be a matter of time before chromatography of other chemical families is found to have diagnostic importance.

A companion volume on zone electrophoresis successfully follows the object of the original work, *i.e.*, the emphasis throughout is practical; instructions are given to the last detail. It deals with paper electrophoresis of proteins (including haemoglobins, lipo and glycoproteins), aminoacids and nucleotides, and there are sections on the use of other media such as agar, starch, and perhaps most important, cellulose acetate. Because there are many authors there is unfortunately a good deal of repetition in this volume, an obvious though not a serious defect which should not be difficult to eradicate in a future edition. In these days when new books so often share the same subject matter, it is a pleasure to find one which has probably no equivalent for British workers, for whom it is well on the way to becoming a standard authority.

WM. H. R. AULD

TECHNIQUES IN TROPICAL PATHOLOGY. By B. G. Macgrath, W. E. Kershaw, and D. Dagnall. (Pp. xi + 164; 6 plates, 4 text figures. 25s.) Edinburgh and London: Oliver & Boyd. 1961.

This handbook is intended for use in small laboratories in the tropics by medical practitioners on the one hand and by technicians with some elementary training in routine laboratory methods on the other.

In attempting to meet the needs of both types of person it has failed to meet the needs of either. The descriptions of techniques lack balance both in choice and content, and there are some omissions, *e.g.*, syphilis. This book is not recommended.