section on clinical applications dealing with adrenocortical hyperfunction and hypofunction in adults, adrenocortical disorders in children, aldosteronism, and the complications of corticosteroid therapy. All the papers are good: particular mention should be made of those of T. Symington and R. H. W. Edwards in the section on chemical pathology, and those of J. D. N. Nabarro, M. D. Milne, and R. I. S. Bayliss in the section on clinical applications.

It is to be hoped that this symposium will be the forerunner of many more; there is a great and increasing need for chemical pathology and clinical medicine to come closer to one another, and it will not be accomplished by the physician ignoring the chemistry of the phenomena he observes nor by the chemist ceasing to be a physician.

ARTHUR JORDAN


The aim of this book is to present a 'unifying approach to the study of blood, concentrating on its function'. In order to achieve this objective, the editors have called upon a panel of distinguished scientists, each an expert in his own chosen field, to contribute to the book. Despite the multiple authorship, the text is pleasantly easy to read and without undue conflict of styles. The illustrations are uniformly good and the whole publication is of a very high standard which is reflected in the price.

The necessity for such a book as this, which seeks not only to increase our understanding but also to restore biological perspective, is symptomatic of our times. It reflects the enormous growth of knowledge in the field of disorders of the blood, the fragmentation of haematology into numerous sub-specialities, the confusing nomenclature, and the increasingly complex technology.

The editors of any book which attempts such an ambitious role must exercise some degree of selection of the subject matter, for it is manifestly impossible to cover all aspects. The coverage in this book is wide and few will quarrel with the choice of subjects. The list of chapters includes, among others, an historical review, the evolution of the human red cell, the morphology of blood cells, the maintenance of the cell populations in the peripheral blood, blood cell metabolism, blood cell antigens, reaction of the blood to injury, and the maintenance of iso-osmolarity.

The approach to each subject is functional and teleological, although morphology is not neglected, but structural changes are used mainly to explain dynamic processes. The views on many haematological problems are those which are commonly accepted on the basis of the available evidence, but where knowledge is incomplete this is clearly indicated. Each chapter is provided with an excellent and up-to-date bibliography.

Those who are interested in the blood and its disorders, either as clinicians, laboratory workers, or students, will delve deeply into this book. They will be both enlightened and refreshed. Few books published in this field in recent years have been as stimulating, instructive and philosophical as 'Functions of the Blood'.

M. G. NELSON