has added a chapter on the concept of thrombolytic therapy and its laboratory control.

This excellent book should prove to be widely acceptable as the standard reference text in this field and can be recommended without hesitation.

J. L. STAFFORD

WILSON'S DISEASE Some current concepts. Edited by John M. Walshe and John N. Cumings. (Pp. x + 292 + Index; 98 figures; 52 tables. 47s. 6d.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1961.

This book contains the proceedings of a symposium on hepato-lenticular degeneration held in London in 1960. The reader can find therein a very up-to-date review of the problem by distinguished workers as well as many important original contributions. Especially interesting are chapters devoted to the metabolism of copper, the biochemistry of caeruloplasmin, and genetic aspects of the disease. Less thorough is the clinical part dealing mainly with penicillamine treatment and hepatic aspects of the condition.

There are some points open to doubt, e.g., the pathogenetic implications of the heterogeneity of caeruloplasmin, but the discussion of this is very valuable and shows the difficulties of the problem.

Summing up, it is a very stimulating book, of interest not only to people working on hepatolenticular degeneration but also to many other clinicians and pathologists.

I. WALD

THE COLOR ATLAS OF INTESTINAL PARASITES By Francis M. Spencer and Lee S. Monroe. (Pp. xvii + 142; 232 figures. 76s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas; Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1961.

This atlas is unusual in that it has been prepared and written by interested clinicians primarily for the American laboratory diagnostician.

The authors are to be congratulated on their obvious industry, care, and skill in preparing the many colour photomicrographs which are of very high quality and have good descriptive and explanatory notes. The value of the atlas as a practical guide is diminished by an excessive bias towards the routine use of stained faecal smears whereas on this side of the Atlantic more attention is given to the general naked-eye, physical, and direct microscopical characteristics of wet stool specimens. Some statements, such as the necessity to take mucosal biopsies to diagnose schistosomiasis, are too dogmatic, and the use of eosin-saline preparations is omitted.

One plate of a saline preparation of an *E. histolytica* cyst is frankly confusing as it shows two very clearly defined nuclei and a 'chromatoidal bar' looking very like several other nuclei. Several illustrations demonstrate the characteristic crescentic thickening of the nuclear membranes of *E. histolytica* but no reference is made to this in the text.

The photographs have been produced to a standard magnification but constant reference has to be made back to one plate on which polymorphonuclear leucocytes are used as a relative guide for parasite size. No measurements are given of parasite size even in the text.

The atlas contains superb photographs and is useful for reference purposes, particularly for the more atypical forms of parasite. As a practical guide to copromancy it does not attain the status hoped for by the authors.

ROGER MORTIMER

HANDBOOK OF BACTERIOLOGICAL TECHNIQUE By F. J. Baker. (Pp. ix + 369; 73 figures. 50s.) London: Butterworth. 1962.

Although at first sight the need for another handbook of bacteriological technique might not appear obvious, this book has much to commend it. It is concise, simple to follow, and dogmatic, and gives a remarkable amount of detail. As might be expected, it gives better guidance on certain topics, particularly the identification of mycobacteria and medical mycology, than do either of the other books in wide use; it also covers parasitology and, rather sketchily, virology. On the other hand, the theoretical basis of the serological procedures described is only lightly touched on, and no clear guidance is given on the value of anaerobic culture for routine specimens.

This book will undoubtedly help technicians working for the final examination in bacteriology if supplemented by one of the books giving a fuller theoretical background. Pathologists will find it useful for quick reference.

H. I. WINNER

HANDBOOK OF MEDICAL LABORATORY FORMULAE By R. E. Silvertown and M. J. Anderson. (Pp. xii + 679. 90s.) London: Butterworth. 1961.

Laboratory workers all over the world will, I am sure, be indebted to the authors of this book of recipes for collecting so much useful material together.

The book is divided into four sections: Bacteriological and Parasitological Reagents; Histopathological Stains and Reagents; Haematological Reagents; and Biochemical Tests and Reagents. There is also an appendix, and among its many useful tables is one of saturated solutions giving weights for solutions at room temperatures (actual temperature stated) and the amount of water required to make 100 ml. solution. This could with advantage be expanded to include all common hydrated salt solutions; hydrated disodium hydrogen phosphate, for example, is omitted.

In a book of this kind there must inevitably be occasional errors. These are not likely to mislead unduly, however, since references to the original methods are always given and in many cases the source of supply of materials, with the address from which they may be obtained, is also included.

E. JOAN STOKES

BACK NUMBERS

Back numbers for February, between 1948 and 1956, are out of print; also those for May, between 1948 and 1950 and in 1954 and 1956, and for August 1948 and November 1949. Issues for January 1960 and January 1961 and March 1961 are also out of print. There are a few back numbers of other issues which may be obtained from the Subscription Department, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.