

been rewritten and enlarged. In chapter 6, a section on chromosomal anomalies and malformations has been added in order to summarize the large amount of work in this field published since 1958.

Additions have also been made in the chapter on inborn metabolic and allied disorders. Other sections of the book remain virtually unaltered. This applies to the excellent chapter on developmental vestiges, heterotopia, hamartomas and hamartomatous syndromes, embryonic tumours, and metaplasia. In an appendix, Professor Willis gives his suggestions for further research.

The book contains a wealth of factual information and illuminating speculation, set forth in the lucid and incisive style so familiar to readers of Professor Willis' other major work *The Pathology of Tumours*. In the preface to the first edition the author expressed his conviction that 'pathologists need to know more embryology and embryologists more pathology'. Not only pathologists and embryologists, but workers in almost every branch of medical science will find this book to be of continuing interest and value.

N. F. C. GOWING

GYNAECOLOGICAL PATHOLOGY By Magnus Haines and Claude W. Taylor. (Pp. vi + 519; 515 figures. 90s.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1962.

The authors hope that this book will be useful to general hospital pathologists, whose biopsy services in most hospitals in this country include a great deal of gynaecological material. I have no doubt that their hope will be justified. Their coverage of the subject is complete and well balanced, with no riding of personal hobby horses. They provide clear factual descriptions, copiously and well illustrated; the photomicrographs in particular are well chosen and of high standard technically, a most important element in the practical usefulness of such a book. General pathologists will certainly find it helpful and reliable in their day-to-day biopsy problems.

The authors hope equally that their book will be of service to gynaecologists, especially those who teach and those who are in training. Again I am sure that they are justified. Surgeons, after a phase of somewhat exclusive absorption in physiology, are now returning to their earlier appreciation of pathology; the neurosurgeons and the thoracic surgeons never lost it; and the gynaecological surgeons, though somewhat dazzled by the competing lights of endocrinology, have a reasonably honourable reputation for fidelity to pathology. In short, there should be a demand for this book among clinicians; and they will find it very useful. The attitude of the book is one of constant awareness of the clinical significance of pathology.

Outside purely factual matters the presentation is not very forceful. Possibly this is a result of dual authorship; it is usually more difficult to make up two minds than one. Repeatedly, on controversial issues opposing views are cited with a minimum of critical appraisal. The reader is left to decide for himself. Admittedly he is given every help to do so by the excellent bibliography, which is full and apposite. But the reader who is not himself a specialist in gynaecological pathology may wish that they had presumed to make his mind up for him.

In what is perhaps the most controversial part of their field, the histogenesis of ovarian tumours, their approach is not so much non-committal as conservative. Whether this is good or bad is a matter of opinion; and as a general pathologist I do not feel qualified to take sides. But this section of their book will stimulate heat among the more radical ovarian experts.

The book is written in a clear and acceptable if not notably elegant style; and I have found no misprints.

A. C. P. CAMPBELL

AVIATION ACCIDENT PATHOLOGY By J. K. Mason. (Pp. xvi + 358; 84 figures. 90s.) London: Butterworth. 1962.

This book is a valuable contribution to a speciality which at the time the book was conceived was still in its infancy. In fact it is not very long ago when far greater interest was shown in the fragments of the crashed aircraft than in the remains of its occupants. The information included in the book is the result of the collection of material with meticulous care (often carried out under the most difficult circumstances) and after painstaking pathological investigation and correlation of the results. Nevertheless, that such patience can have its reward is reflected in the calibre of the book itself, which shows a critical approach to the problems which the author seeks to solve, and by its example should stimulate others, for much still requires to be done. As the author himself admits, there still remain many questions to be answered, but his observations have underlined many of the difficulties as well as setting a standard of careful and systematic approach. At the same time, he makes no attempt to disguise the fact that on many occasions it is quite impossible to be completely certain of the interpretation of pathological lesions found in bodies which have been subjected to a variety of changing conditions, before, during, and after death.

Although it is obvious that if advances are to be made, this work is not for the casual operator, at the same time it is equally true that it must demand close cooperation between what is called specialist on the one hand and the general practitioner on the other. It certainly should be available to all those who practise forensic pathology, and in all reference libraries. The production is above criticism.

FRANCIS CAMPS

PROTHROMBIN By Walter H. Seegers. (Pp. xxvi + 728; 26 figures; 23 tables. 120s.) Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press; London: Oxford University Press. 1962.

The title of this monograph will be misleading for those readers not conversant with singular contributions to the literature of blood coagulation made by Seegers and his associates. This is, in fact, a book involving nearly all the known aspects of coagulation, excluding fibrinolysis. In Seegers' view the conversion of prothrombin to thrombin involves thrombin as the only known enzyme. Other substances, which he terms procoagulants, play only supportive roles.

Seegers and his colleagues have attempted to study