

coagulation and its disorders by the chemical isolation of so-called 'pure' clotting factors. A good deal of the argument centres on whether this has been done by Seegers and others who have tried to reproduce this work, and on the validity of the resulting conclusions.

The orthodox 'coagulationist' and routine haematologist will experience great difficulty with Seegers' terminology. He employs a system of nomenclature based on his own knowledge and experience with pure products. He does not readily concede common ground with the accepted international system of coagulation nomenclature or other pseudonyms widely used. He does not identify factor VII with autoprothrombin I because he states that he does not know what factor VII is.

The chapters on antithrombins, clot retraction, and his re-examination of the original cases of several of the recognized coagulation disorders make fascinating reading. The constant variation between the third and first person and the somewhat irrelevant admixture of philosophical quotations from the poets are, however, very distracting in a scientific work of this type. An example of his dogmatism is his rejection of the validity of the two systems of prothrombinase production. On this he writes:—

'In 1955 the concept arose, first in Oxford, that there are two different systems for the generation of prothrombinase in the body. I do not think there can be systems for generation of what does not exist; namely, prothrombinase.'

The statement which often recurs that Marcoumar has no effect on factor IX (autoprothrombin II) is hard to accept.

This is a useful, informative book for those interested in coagulation chemistry but its value to the general reader must be very doubtful.

L. POLLER

ELECTRON MICROSCOPY *British Medical Bulletin*. (Pp. ix + 179-254; 32 plates. 35s.) London: British Council. 1962.

This survey of current knowledge and developments in electron microscopy in relation to medical science is warmly recommended to all pathologists. Inevitably its

appeal will be more directly to academic workers who can discern possibilities of assistance with research problems, but it is equally fascinating to indulge in hypothetical extrapolation of the observations reported and consider where they can and will reach into the realm of diagnostic pathology. E. H. Mercer's account of the cancer cell, M.S.C. Birbeck's study of melanocytes, and the particularly beautiful work of S. J. Holt and R. M. Hicks on enzyme localization all have obvious links with hospital pathology, but it is perhaps unfortunate that the opportunity was not taken to survey the successful studies on human renal biopsies.

Microbiologists are particularly well served by excellent accounts of virus structure (M. A. Epstein), the viruses of tumours and warts (A. F. Howatson), virus structure studied by negative-staining techniques (R. W. Horne and P. Wildy), and bacterial structure (Audrey M. Glauert). These and many other topics cannot fail to provide interest and enlightenment, not only to those with access to electron microscopes but also to all who habitually use more modest instruments.

T. CRAWFORD

#### CORRECTION

The review of a book entitled 'Ionizing Radiation' and published in the *Journal for September, 1962 (J. clin. Path., 15, 488)* was written by H. E. M. Kay and not by N. G. Trott.

#### THIRD SYMPOSIUM ON ENZYMES IN CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

A symposium on multiple molecular forms of enzymes and their use in clinical diagnosis will be held at the New Academic Hospital, Ghent, Belgium, on Saturday 27 April 1963. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and end at about 6 p.m. Fee (including lunch) 100 Belgian francs (about 15s.). Readers interested in attending this meeting or in making a short communication are asked to write to: R. J. Wieme, Laboratory of the Medical Clinic, University of Ghent, Pasteurdreef 2, Ghent, Belgium.

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