

structure, and that 'diverticula' found in the intercapillary lumina are pressoreceptors transmitting information to the juxtaglomerular apparatus.

This work is likely to have a limited appeal to British pathologists unless they are working in the renal field.

E. M. DARMADY

**ADRENOCORTICAL DISORDERS** A Guide to Diagnosis. By H. Miller and J. A. Durant. (Pp. 70; 14 figures. 15s.) London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. 1962.

This short book, written by a pathologist and a biochemist, is designed to help clinicians and pathologists who are not specialists in the subject. After a short summary of the chemistry, metabolism, and pharmacology of the adrenocortical hormones, there is a description of the main biochemical investigations employed to elucidate disorders of the adrenal cortex, followed by accounts of their use in the diagnosis of states of over- and under-secretion by the gland. At the end there is a more detailed account of steroid chemistry and nomenclature.

The book succeeds in giving a clear account of biochemical methods for diagnosing adrenocortical disorders, and should be of considerable value to those for whom it is written. There is little to criticize, except perhaps the recommendation that, in the A.C.T.H. test, 17-ketosteroids as well as 17-hydroxysteroids should be estimated on all three control urines and all three test urines; in most cases a clear-cut answer can be obtained from two 17-hydroxycorticosteroid estimations only, one on a representative bulk sample of the control urines and one on the third test urine. Perhaps the next edition could dispense with names such as SU4885 and compound S which are now purely historical, and could omit altogether the Kepler-Robinson-Power test which may be considered obsolete.

The printing is clear and there are few errors. The index is adequate. The binding, though flexible, is strong and the whole fits into the pocket of a white coat. Authors and publishers have done their work well.

G. K. MCGOWAN

**LECTURE NOTES ON PATHOLOGY** By A. D. Thomson and R. E. Cotton (Pp. xv + 1040; 39 figures. 55s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1962.

This book will be welcomed by the many undergraduate and postgraduate students who seem to appreciate type-written summaries of lectures ('handouts'). It is an accurate, business-like and well balanced series of notes on pathology—a remarkable accomplishment considering the concise, didactic, and comprehensive approach used by the authors. Paragraph headings and lists are used to full advantage but the almost telegraphic style makes the book unpleasant to read and at times ambiguous. No photographs and only a few line drawings illustrate the text. The most serious criticism of the book is that it makes an interesting subject seem dull; it is left to the teacher and to the books recommended for additional reading to maintain the student's enthusiasm. Perhaps there is something to be said for the view that scientific publications should have some literary merit in addition to clarity and brevity.

A. B. GOUDIF

**THE DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD**, 2nd ed. By C. J. Polson, R. P. Brittain, and T. K. Marshall. (Pp. x + 356. 45s.) London: The English Universities Press. 1962.

So many readers will have profited from Polson's *vademecum*—the only one of its kind—on the 'Disposal of the dead' that it can hardly be necessary to review the work in the ordinary way. This book was popular because it was accurate and up to date, read well, and filled a gap in the medico-legal literature. It continues to do so, and, after a first life of 10 years, only needed revision to conform with the constant progress of statute law. Coroners' rules, the Mental Health Act, the Human Tissues Act, and some new detail in registration necessitated small text amendments. Polson writes with a fluent pen and a great interest in fundamentally sound and intelligible English. This most valuable book should be within reach of every pathologist who wishes to be informed on the rights of necropsy, his duties and responsibilities with the dead, and his authority to pursue a really searching necropsy.

KEITH SIMPSON

**CANCER: A GENERAL GUIDE TO RESEARCH AND ITS TREATMENT** By N. N. Petrov. Translated by A. P. Fletcher; edited by W. J. P. Neish. (Pp. xvi + 387; 102 figures. 80s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1963.

The study of tumours has been singled out for particular attention in the Soviet Union where in 1960 there were no fewer than 1,000 oncological institutes. 'Cancer', a comprehensive survey as seen through Russian eyes, must therefore be welcomed. It is on the whole a well-balanced book ranging from aetiology and experimental work to the treatment and prophylaxis of human tumours. The references are mostly Russian even when the pioneer work was done elsewhere, and there are some exclusively Russian sections, *e.g.*, the account of nervous influences in carcinogenesis. On the debit side are the lack of references later than 1957, some conspicuous gaps (chromosomes, for example, are not mentioned), some doubtful statements, *e.g.*, on the role of trauma, and a rather turgid style with many italicized generalizations. In short, the book can only be recommended to those who seek a guide to Russian oncology.

H. E. M. KAY

**PRACTICAL SECTION CUTTING AND STAINING**, 4th ed. By E. C. Claydon. (Pp. vii + 198; 31 figures. 20s.) London: J. & A. Churchill, Ltd. 1962.

The fact that Mr. Claydon's book has run to four editions should really be sufficient guarantee of its value. It is essentially a book for newcomers to the field of histological technology, who will find in it a great deal of what they need. In this respect the section on formulae is particularly valuable.

In some respects the book is not really up to date. Even for beginners in histology it is surely now essential to consider the use of the cryostat for preparing fresh tissue sections.

In most cases I think the methods selected by the author could be considered the best for the purpose but I doubt if Bennholde's Congo red method for amyloid falls into this category.

A. G. EVERSON PEARSE