Editorial

The first part of this issue is devoted to certain aspects of the pathology of cardiovascular disease. It is based on contributions to a Symposium held by the Association of Clinical Pathologists in Belfast in April 1963. Necessarily, the whole field could not be covered and only certain subjects were reviewed. However, with the addition of certain cognate papers, the general effect is to indicate to the pathologist the present views on the physiology of the conducting system, the changes with age in the arterial tree, and certain aspects of thrombus formation. These are important when cardiac surgery is contemplated. The experiences of those contributors who have been involved in the monitoring of blood during these operations is fascinating. In the biochemical and haematological control of the blood circulating both through the cooled body and an extracorporeal circulation many hazards are met, and the techniques described to help to overcome the pitfalls will be welcomed by anyone about to undertake this work. These papers perhaps show best of all the value and importance of having a clinical pathologist as a member of the clinical team when elaborate procedures such as cardiac surgery are undertaken.

The College of Pathologists

MEMBERSHIP BY EXAMINATION

Examinations for Membership of the College will begin in 1964. The examination will be in two parts: a broadly-based primary examination taken after a minimum of two years’ full-time work in the field of pathology and a final examination in one main branch of pathology taken after a minimum of five years’ work in pathology. In certain circumstances exemption may be granted from the whole or part of the primary examination. It may be necessary to limit the number of entrants to each examination.

It will greatly assist the Officers of the College in organizing these examinations if those intending to enter will notify the Registrar, 12 Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W.1, who will forward further details.
The advantages of the complement-fixation test over the Hogben test are as follows:—1 The test is easy to perform and the results can be obtained on the day of the test. If there is no urgency for results, the test can be run in parallel and on the same day as the Wassermann reactions. More than 100 tests can be completed with ease in a morning. 2 No animals are required with a resulting saving in technical staff and materials. 3 The test can be adapted to yield quantitative results with a much more satisfactory and reliable end-point than can be obtained by present-day bio-assay methods. 4 Facilities are available in all laboratories for the preparation of anti-human chorionic gonadotrophin sera.

We are indebted to Dr. D. R. Bangham of the National Institute for Medical Research, London, for supplying us with the international standard preparation of human chorionic gonadotrophin.

REFERENCES

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The SEPTEMBER 1963 ISSUE CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING PAPERS

Pioneer work by Professor Dudgeon in cytological diagnosis J. BAMFORTH
Exfoliative cytology in the diagnosis of cancer of the bronchus S. W. A. KUPER
Progressive multifocal leucoencephalopathy and primary hypersplenism With a note on the association between disease of the reticuloendothelial system and progressive multifocal leucoencephalopathy V. F. WEINSTEIN, A. L. WOOLF, and M. J. MEYNELL
Diffuse degeneration of cerebral white matter resembling so-calledBinswanger's disease and symmetrical necrosis of the globus pallidus associated with acute porphyria and cerebral atherosclerosis W. THOMAS SMITH and S. R. F. WHITTAKER
Disseminated herpes simplex in newborn infants T. BIRD, J. E. ENNIS, A. J. WORT, and P. S. GARDNER
Chronic myeloid leukaemia with lymphosarcoma J. S. HOWELL, and A. G. W. WHITFIELD
Two cases of thrombohaemolytic thrombocytopenic purpura associated with changes in red cell morphology P. MCCORMACK, D. J. O'BRIEN, and R. A. M. OLIVER
A thrombocyte consumption test for the demonstration of autoantibody-like serum factors GY. DÔBIAS
The thymus in hepatic cirrhosis MAURICE CORRIDAN
Renal biopsy in a general hospital PAUL TURNER
Nasal carriage of staphylococci and post-operative staphylococcal wound infection R. J. HENDERSON and R. E. O. WILLIAMS

The clumping of Staphylococcus pyogenes by serum and fibrinogen-free plasmas A. E. BROWN and A. A. FARUQUE
Relationships of coagulases and agglutinins in vitro and in vivo to Staphylococcus pyogenes A. HENDERSON and J. BRODIE
Cryptococcal meningitis in Hong Kong C. T. HUANG, P. C. WONG, and C. H. CHAN-TEOH
The estimation of blood galactose using a glucose oxidase-catalase reagent C. H. BOWDEN
A rapid colorimetric method for the estimation of urinary chlorides R. A. CROCKSON
Technical and experimental errors in the spectrophotometric determination of oxygen saturation R. G. FISH and M. RADCLIFFE LEE
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The effect of citrate preservatives on estimating the Westergren method of erythrocyte sedimentation rates H. STERNDALE
Fixation and transport in a postal cytodiagnostic service J. A. HIGGINS and J. P. SMITH
Book reviews

Copies are still available and may be obtained from the PUBLISHING MANAGER,

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, W.C.I., price 18s. 6d.
The one salient lesson that the reviewer learnt from reading this book is that one should never, in a book that may run to nine editions, use the word 'recent': here it refers to events as remotely separated in time as the taxonomic separation of the *Brucella* group from the enterobacteria and to the 1957 epidemic of influenza. Similar evidence of inadequate revision is common throughout: the book reads its age. Even the chapter on the coli-typhoid-dysentery organisms, which has been re-written for the new edition, lacks the clarity of plan which is proper to an elementary textbook and includes much reference to the development of taxonomic ideas on the group, which can only be confusing to the student. Doubtless this book will continue to be popular, if only because it does offer rather more descriptive bacteriology than the other short British textbooks and yet does not reach the bulk or price of some of its American counterparts. But the student will need a considerable amount of guidance in the selection of what to remember if he is not to end with an oddly balanced view of medical bacteriology.

R. E. O. WILLIAMS

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**Broadsheets prepared by the Association of Clinical Pathologists**

The following broadsheets (new series) are published by the Association of Clinical Pathologists. They may be obtained from Dr. R. B. H. Tierney, Pathological Laboratory, Boutport Street, Barnstaple, N. Devon. The prices include postage, but airmail will be charged extra.

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