vertebral artery in the numerous instances of cerebrovascular disease which come to necropsy in general hospitals. Chapters on fixation and processing, and the preparation of sections and the essential staining techniques are well and clearly described and illustrated by excellent black and white, and occasional, less attractive coloured photographs. The account of the standard blocks to be taken when investigating an undiagnosed brain disease is useful, but it is in the accounts of staining methods that the book excels. Most of the descriptions are sufficiently detailed for an experienced general histological technician to use with the probability of good results at the first attempt. The description of the Holzer method for glial fibres is given in such minute detail that consistently excellent results can be obtained with what is often a most capricious procedure. If the other difficult techniques had been given in such splendid detail, along with the references to the literature on important points raised by the author, such as the distinction of true degeneration from artefact in Marchi-stained preparations, then the book would be quite exceptional. As it is, this small volume will be a valuable addition to any histological laboratory, and both in its content, and high standard of photography and general production it is first-rate value for money.

B. E. TOMLINSON

STAINING ANIMAL TISSUE: PRACTICAL AND THEORETICAL
By Edward Gurr. (Pp. xii + 631; coloured frontispiece. 84s.) London: Leonard Hill. 1962.

It is a pity that this book does not remove the doubts raised by Mr. Gurr's previous books about his capability of producing a clear unambiguous and disinterested volume. For example, there is doubt about Thomas, who on page 367 is J. T. Thomas of 1953 and in the reference list becomes J. R.; but the recipe on p. 558 headed 'haematoxylin (Thomas)' has no initials, no reference, no reason for its inclusion, no clue to the function or value of the method, and stands unlinked, shrouded in doubt. The formula given bears a partial resemblance to that published by J. A. Thomas (1943, see Langeron, or Gray) and possibly the quantitative differences could be due to typographical slips, but why intensify the bafflement? Why, for example, does Squire's Orange-Fuchsin solution (p. 563) appear among the 'recipes' with no mention of Squire in any of the indices nor any note about the use of this mixture? There are in the subject index five page references, *i.e.*, pagination without subheading, under rabies, five under Negri bodies but only three are common. Something called MacConaill's glucose syrup (p. 531) is said to be 'an extremely useful product with many applications', but although a reference is quoted (*J. Anat.*, 1937) no formula is given, despite the fact that a formula is given for the preparation of 1% aqueous eosin! Another irrational procedure is the refusal to use colour index numbers for the dyes mentioned; no explanation is offered on the grounds that adequate reasons were given in two of his earlier books. These were not adequate reasons, and this is no way to behave.

Many methods are quoted in detail with references, and the reader might naturally assume that these are exact transcripts. Under Barlow's method, on p. 449, it is

stated that the sections should be mounted in D.P.X., Cristalite, Clearmount, or Emexel, whereas in fact Barlow mentioned only D.P.X. The other three mountants are products of undisclosed constitution sold by Mr. Gurr.

No book is so bad but it may give a man an idea, and this old saying is true, but it does not justify slack editing, an index that shows so little understanding, and scientific standards at the mercy of commercial ones. The book is commended only to those pathologists who are long in the tooth and well endowed with cash and scepticism.

A. C. LENDRUM

THE ADRENAL CORTEX *British Medical Bulletin*, vol. 18, no. 2. Edited by F. T. G. Prunty. (Pp. 89-170; illustrated. 20s.) London: British Council. 1962.

Another issue of the *British Medical Bulletin* devoted to the adrenal cortex is a welcome review of recent work in this field. The inclusion of articles discussing the function of the adrenal cortex in animals other than man is stimulating for the student of human physiology and pathology.

Other articles deal with the synthesis and biogenesis of adrenocortical steroids and disorders of biosynthesis in man, the transport and cellular effects of these steroids, as well as the clinical investigation of disorders of the adrenal cortex. Finally there are three sections in which the problems of the secretion and the effects of aldosterone are discussed.

The wide-ranging evaluation of many persons' work is balanced by a strong personal flavour maintained throughout the monograph which holds the attention of the reader. All the articles are relevant to clinical problems of adrenal pathology and will be sources of information and guidance as well as controversy for a number of years to come.

M. G. RINSLER

TEXTBOOK OF BACTERIOLOGY, 9TH EDITION By R. W. Fairbrother and Geoffrey Taylor. (Pp. viii + 510; 7 plates; 32 tables. 30s.) London: William Heinemann. 1962.

The fact that we now have the ninth edition of Fairbrother's textbook (revised in collaboration with Geoffrey Taylor) is good evidence of the book's valued place in the teaching of medical students. It provides a moderate-sized textbook dealing exclusively with medical bacteriology in the classical sense; that is, it describes the microbes and the methods for their isolation but gives no more than passing reference to pathogenicity and epidemiology.

The first 183 pages of the book are described as 'general bacteriology' and include chapters on immunity and allergy, and on chemotherapy, but only 15 pages on 'infection', in which are included both pathogenetic mechanisms and modes of transfer of infection. There follow 200 pages of systematic descriptive bacteriology, and single chapters on viruses, rickettsiae, bacteriophage, and the bacteriology of water, milk, and shellfish. There is a short final section on technique. Fungi are not discussed.

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 colityphoid-dysentery organisms, which has been rewritten 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

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.

- 3 The Detection of Barbiturates in Blood, Cerebrospinal Fluid, Urine, and Stomach Contents. 1953. L. C. NICKOLLS. 1s.
- 4 The Estimation of Carbon Monoxide in Blood. 1953. D. A. STANLEY. 1s.
- 13 The Identification of Serotypes of *Escherichia coli* Associated with Infantile Gastro-enteritis. 1956. JOAN TAYLOR. 1s.
- 14 The Determination of Serum Iron and Serum Unsaturated Iron-binding Capacity. 1956. ARTHUR JORDAN. 1s.
- 16 Preservation of Pathological Museum Specimens. 1957. L. W. PROGER. 1s.
- 17 Cultural Diagnosis of Whooping-cough. 1957. B. W. LACEY. 1s.
- 20 Investigation of Porphyrin/Porphyrin. 1958 (reprinted 1962). C. RIMINGTON. 2s.
- 23 The Dried Disc Technique for Bacterial Sensitivity Tests. 1959. R. W. FAIRBROTHER and J. C. SHERRIS. 1s.
- 24 Safe Handling of Radioactive Tissues in the Laboratory and Post-mortem Room. 1959. R. C. CURRAN. 1s.
- 26 The Periodic Acid-Schiff Reaction. 1959. A. G. E. PEARSE. 1s.
- 28 Daily Fatty Acid Excretion. 1960. A. C. FRAZER. 2s.
- 29 The Preparation of Bone for Diagnostic Histology. 1960. D. H. COLLINS. 2s.
- 30 Control of Accuracy in Chemical Pathology. 1961. G. H. GRANT. 4s.
- 31 Investigation of Haemorrhagic States with Special Reference to Defects of Coagulation of the Blood. 1961. E. K. BLACKBURN. 4s.
- 32 Detection of Resistance to Streptomycin, P.A.S., and Isoniazid in Tubercle Bacilli. 1961. R. CRUICKSHANK and S. M. STEWART. 2s.
- 33 The Laboratory Detection of Abnormal Haemoglobins. 1961. H. LEHMANN and J. A. M. AGER. 4s.
- 34 Titration of Antistreptolysin O. 1961. H. GOODER and R. E. O. WILLIAMS. 2s.
- 35 The Estimation of Faecal 'Urobilinogen'. 1961. C. H. GRAY. 2s.
- 36 Quantitative Determination of Porphobilinogen and Porphyrins in Urine and Faeces. 1961. C. RIMINGTON. 3s. 6d.
- 37 The Paper Electrophoresis of Serum and Urinary Proteins. 1961. G. FRANGLEN and N. H. MARTIN. 4s.
- 38 The Augmented Histamine Gastric Function Test. 1961. M. LUBRAN. 2s.
- 39 Investigation of Haemolytic Anaemia. 1961. J. G. SELWYN. 2s.
- 40 Short-term Preservation of Bacterial Cultures. 1962. E. JOAN STOKES. 2s.
- 41 Serological Tests for Syphilis. 1962. A. E. WILKINSON. 6s.
- 42 The Determination of Glucose 6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase in Red Cells. 1962. T. A. J. PRANKERD. 2s.
- 43 Mycological Techniques. 1962. R. W. RIDDELL. 3s. 6d.
- 44 The Laboratory Investigation of Catecholamine Secreting Tumours. 1963. M. SANDLER and C. R. J. RUTHVEN. 2s.
- 45 Diagnostic Test for Hereditary Galactosaemia. 1963. V. SCHWARZ. 2s.