are admirably reproduced up to the usual Elsevier standard. This volume will appeal to workers interested in the modern trends in the protein field.

J. KOHN

CURRENT CONCEPTS IN HYPOTHYROIDISM Edited by K. R. Crispell. (Pp. v + 194; illustrated. 55s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1963.

This book collects in 13 chapters, written by 27 authors, some specialized aspects of hypothyroidism. Professor Crispell, the Editor, makes it clear that it is not comprehensive and though the thoughts may be 'current' they are not necessarily new. The specialist in the field will already have absorbed much that is contained in this review from the literature of the last decade. Others will find individual chapters, such as the succinct review by Smart and Owen of the relationship between thyroiditis and hypothyroidism, a valuable résumé of the present position of a field which commands everyone's attention, while Marvin Sachs contributes a most interesting chapter on cholesterol metabolism in hypothyroidism with special reference to the effects of the thyroxin analogues. His chapter reiterates the interesting observation of Pitts and Man in 1950 that in myxoedematous patients under treatment the cholesterol levels may return to normal before such values as the P.B.I. have altered appreciably, suggesting a dissociation of individual effects. Chapters on iodine metabolism by Stanbury and his colleagues and the metabolism of thyroid hormone by Braverman and Ingbar, could be read with advantage by student and postgraduate alike. It is this diversity that makes the correct positioning of the book in the pattern of medical literature so difficult to assess. It is neither a survey of recent advances nor a consideration of established work. Beautifully produced, as one might expect as a product of Pergamon Press, it will no doubt find its way to many library shelves where much of the content will be dated in a decade.

NICHOLAS H. MARTIN

DISEASES TRANSMITTED FROM ANIMALS TO MAN Edited by Thomas G. Hull. (Pp. xxii + 967; illustrated. \$17.75). Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

This book, now its fifth edition, describes the epidemiology and, to a less extent, the pathology of animal diseases that can affect man. The book is in three main sections, the first dealing with diseases principally affecting domestic animals, and the second the diseases of wild animals; the third section is a synthesis in which the significance of animals as sources and vectors of human disease is discussed. Bacterial and virus diseases naturally take the greatest space, but there are also chapters on fungi and larger parasites and on diseases produced by inanimate chemical agents in animal products.

Most of the diseases are discussed in considerable detail; thus, tuberculosis has 77 pages, plague 61, the viral encephalitides 43, and listeriosis and rabies about 30 each. The general plan of each chapter is to describe first the aetiological agent (though not usually in sufficient detail to guide laboratory diagnosis) and then to give an account of the disease, first in animals and then in man. Though the pathology of the diseases

receives mention, the greatest attention is given to epidemiology—both prevalence and mode of spread. In general the emphasis is on the situation in the United States but there are notable exceptions, such as the chapters on tuberculosis and plague, which have a world-wide view.

The epidemiological discussions are well supported by facts and figures and there is useful citation of the original literature, although the lists of references at the end of most chapters lack the titles of the papers. There are few references to papers published after 1960.

Thirty-two authors have contributed to this revision, 10 have medical qualifications and of the remainder many are veterinarians. The number of authors has the inevitable consequence that the chapters vary greatly in presentation and readability; some are altogether too diffuse and would profit from much tighter editing. The production of the book, and the illustrations are of a high standard, though marred by a number of misprints.

Altogether the book provides a great deal of information and serves as a valuable guide to the literature of the zoonoses.

R. E. O. WILLIAMS

INFECTION IN HOSPITALS Epidemiology and Control Edited by R. E. O. Williams and R. A. Shooter. (Pp. xviii + 355; illustrated. 52s. 6d.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1963.

This book is a comprehensive report of a seminar held at the Wright Fleming Institute, St. Mary's Hospital, London, in September 1962. All the papers given at this seminar and the discussions following their presentation are fully reported. This book will prove not only a valuable record of the conference, which was attended by representatives of 26 countries from all over the world, but also a useful reference book which brings into one cover a mass of material that up to date has only been reported in the countries of origin.

It deals principally with the epidemiology of hospital infection but contains sections on preventive measures which can be taken in the fields of design, organization and practice of the various departments in the general hospital. While the presentation is naturally somewhat biased towards the problem as seen by the bacteriologists, there is material for thought by clinicians, planners, and heads of departments. In the library of any of these it will form an excellent companion volume to the treatise on hospital infection published in 1960 by Williams, Blowers, Garrod, and Shooter.

STEPHEN MACKENZIE

THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF MEDICINE Annual Reviews, 1963 Edited by the British Postgraduate Medical Federation. (Pp. ix + 339; illustrated. 40s.) University of London: The Athlone Press. 1963.

This volume consists of 20 lectures given under the auspices of the British Postgraduate Federation in the winter session October 1961/62. It is the eleventh volume of the series aimed at enlightening the young postgraduate. One has learnt to look forward to the publication of these reviews with pleasure. The organisers of the course have always been catholic in their choice of subject, but their lectures are chosen with such skill that