rapidly developing field to which he has himself contributed much, he is able to demonstrate the value of tissue culture in dispelling undue rigidity in concepts of tumour genesis based exclusively on histological sections. He has once again succeeded in indicating the growth and vitality of a subject which many have regarded as largely worked out. It is to be hoped that his stimulating chapter will encourage others well versed in conventional neuropathology to take up the many new techniques now available so that still more new light may be shone on old facts.

A. L. WOOLF

TUMOURS OF THE SKIN A collection of papers presented at the 7th Annual Clinical Conference on Cancer, 1962, at the University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumour Institute, Houston, Texas. (Pp. 322.) Book Medical Publishers Inc. 1964.

There are fringe benefits in our cloudy skies and contaminated air. In Texas, 24% of cancer is skin cancer, one third of which is squamous cell carcinoma, nearly all on unprotected skin. 'Tumours of the skin' reflects this great experience and covers epidemiological, diagnostic, and therapeutic aspects. Pathologists will be interested in the papers on precancerous lesions and the aetiological and genetic factors but the main theme is clinical diagnosis and management. There is not much that is really new in this book, and as it is neither greatly stimulating nor designed for reference, it seems unlikely to have a wide appeal.

R. A. B. DRURY

THE CHEST FILM IN MASSIVE PULMONARY EMBOLISM By Daniel J. Torrance. (Pp. 74; 31 figures; illustrated. \$6.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

This monograph covers the x-ray diagnosis of massive pulmonary artery occlusion based principally on the plain x-ray film of the chest. The subject is of increasing importance with the possibility of prompt surgical treatment of the condition by embolectomy in conjunction with cardiopulmonary bypass. Most patients do not succumb instantly to massive pulmonary embolism; many survive for many hours. Plainly, however, speed in diagnosis is essential for successful surgery, and any aid the radiologist can give to the clinician by simple radiography is of the greatest value.

The work is based on 23 case presentations, all of which are fully documented and illustrated with the original radiographs and diagrams of the pulmonary arteries, as found at necropsy. Other associated findings such as pulmonary infarction, atelectatic changes, and hyperaeration of the lung are also discussed. The general standard of compilation is excellent and the diagrams are of a very high order. The radiographs are sometimes not as clear as they could be, but many of the

originals were of necessity taken on portable apparatus. The author does not deal with pulmonary arteriography which has a place in the management of these cases when diagnosis is doubtful.

Dr. Torrance is to be congratulated on an excellent and timely publication when it appears that a new period of more active therapy for massive pulmonary embolism is arriving.

GLYN LLOYD

HAEMATOLOGICAL TECHNIQUE FOR MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIANS AND MEDICAL STUDENTS 3rd ed. By E. M. Darmady and S. G. T. Davenport. (Pp. viii + 263; 22 figures: 4 colour plates; 16 tables. 30s.) London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. (1963).

This is the third edition of a book on haematological techniques for medical laboratory technicians and medical students. The senior author is an experienced pathologist who has an intimate knowledge of hospital laboratory methods. His former chief laboratory technician is the co-author.

The main object of the book is to present those haematological techniques which have proved to be most useful in the diagnostic hospital laboratory service. Instead of producing a technical manual the authors have chosen to widen the presentation. Thus whilst the technical methods are highlighted, the background has been filled in with short clinical and pathological descriptions. This helps to round off and give significance to the whole.

The introductory chapter describes the process of haemopoiesis in a most succinct way. The later chapters present a logical approach to the laboratory investigations likely to be helpful in the various disorders of the blood. The chosen laboratory methods are each presented in such a way that they can be followed by the most junior member of the laboratory staff.

The presentation and printing of the book are excellent. It is written in a clear, concise, and readable style.

There are some who are not in sympathy with a combination of theoretical text and laboratory manual. In such a book the main problem is where to introduce the laboratory method into the descriptive text. Just as for various reasons no classification of disorders of the blood is entirely satisfactory, so also is it difficult to associate the technical method with what everyone would regard as the most appropriate clinical condition. It is this personal bias in selection that has led to a book in which the technical methods are collected together in an appendix.

This book on haematological techniques has individuality, a terse style, and clear technical descriptions. It will find its way onto the bench and into the library of many haematological departments.

G. M. NELSON