Book reviews

BLEEDING DISORDERS—INVESTIGATION AND MANAGEMENT

By R. M. Hardisty and G. I. C. Ingram. (Pp. xii + 376. 55s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1965. In this book the authors have set out to provide a guide to both clinicians and haematologists who encounter a patient who is bleeding abnormally. By doing this they have provided a very useful addition to the medical literature in a practical book complementary to the existing but more academic monographs on the subject of blood coagulation.

A short theoretical introduction is followed by a description of the types of abnormal clinical bleeding that may be encountered in various haemorrhagic states. Then follows a guide as to the tests that should be used for diagnosis and the rationale for their use (the actual techniques are given in a comprehensive technical appendix and cross reference is made in the text). The life-long or inherited bleeding disorders and their treatment are next described.

The acquired abnormalities receive deserved emphasis. The present growing interest in defibrination syndromes is stressed by a very comprehensive description of the mechanism, clinical states, and their treatment. The risks of producing abnormal bleeding by massive blood transfusion are discussed, together with the complications of incompatible blood transfusion, and the modern problem of cardiac-pulmonary bypass techniques and post-perfusion bleeding are also included.

Natural and acquired anticoagulants, vitamin K deficiency, and the purpuras are described, and the final large chapter contains a detailed list of those laboratory methods that have been mentioned in the text.

A comprehensive and up-to-date bibliography is given.

This book should be read by clinician and laboratory workers alike: it will educate the beginner whether he be an aspiring physician or haematologist, stimulate those who think they know all about this subject to think again on many points that the authors have discussed, and provide a useful reference or bench book for use in everyday practice.

The what to do and how to do it in this book cannot be faulted except where the reader may have minor differences of opinion. The layout is somewhat sectional and thus annoying as there has been too much use of cross references, some of which are wrong. At times one feels the authors could with advantage have been more dogmatic.

In discussing the taking of a clinical history of bleeding, some guide as to how to assess the amount of blood lost from a given site would have improved this section. A more detailed description of how snake venoms activate clotting should have been given; for instance, heparin has no effect on the action of the Malayan pit viper venom and thus cannot be used to neutralize its action. Amongst the laboratory methods one finds certain techniques and details of technique included which would not be the choice of other workers in this field.

These criticisms are of course of minor importance in relation to the overall value of this book. The presentation by the publishers is up to their usual high standard and at the price this is good value for money.

A. A. SHARP

NUTRITIONAL ASPECTS OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES

By Eors Bajusz. (Pp. xix + 244; illustrated. 55s.) London: Crosby Lockwood & Son. 1965.

The author of this short monograph describes, in the preface, his purpose as being an attempt 'to integrate the complex nutritional physio-pathology with related structural and functional derangements of the cardiovascular system'. The book undoubtedly owes its inspiration to Hans Selye, who contributes a highly laudatory foreword. Selye's work on the production of cardiomyopathies in rats by manipulations of sodium and chloride intake and administration of hormone preparations forms the starting point for elaborate theorizing on the dietetic and stress relationships of heart disease in man. The somewhat wordy style frequently occasions some difficulty in disentangling factual observations from pure conjecture.

In spite of these drawbacks, the monograph has value in drawing attention to mechanisms of heart muscle necrosis other than ischaemia.

T. CRAWFORD

CARDIOVASCULAR PATHOLOGY

By R. E. B. Hudson. (Pp. (Vols. 1 and 2) 3313; illustrated. £21.) London: Edward Arnold.

What an astonishing *magnum opus* this is! A one-man compilation which runs to over 3,000 pages, with every section heavily documented by references to the literature, represents a staggering amount of labour which inevitably commands our admiration. Having undertaken the stupendous task of writing a one-man reference book on the pathology of the cardiovascular system (perhaps the most written-about system in medicine) the author seems almost to have thrown discretion to the winds and misses no opportunity to lengthen the volumes by yet a page or two more. There is, for instance, included under the heading of 'The cardiac necropsy', quite a full account of general post-mortem room technique, and a little later we come on to half a dozen pages devoted to the photography, preservation, and mounting of museum specimens.

The section on the aetiology of bacterial endocarditis regales us with the splendid statement that 'staphylococci are Gram-positive spherical organisms which grow in clusters', and there is interpolated at this point almost a miniature textbook of microbiology with an account of all the microorganisms which are capable of setting up this infection. Similarly, there are considerable accounts of blood coagulation and the fibrinolytic processes and their disturbances, of electrolyte balance and its upsets, lipid metabolism and glycogen metabolism, to mention

only a few of the interesting side paths along which Dr. Hudson has been tempted to wander. Fascinating as these meanderings are, and though they add much to the overall informativeness of the work, they do contribute significantly to its massive size and price; and one is often left wondering just what audience was in the author's mind. The work is clearly too detailed for undergraduates, and often it is not sufficiently detailed to be the complete reference book for the specialist pathologist. Perhaps the most appreciative readers will be cardiologists and physicians who will certainly find in these pages vivid accounts of the clinico-pathological relationships of the diseases discussed.

All who practice hospital histopathology will certainly wish to have these volumes on their shelves. The high spots are of course those aspects of heart disease that Dr. Hudson has made so much his own—congenital heart disease, valvular disease, and the cardiomyopathies in particular.

For a reference work of this size indexing is of prime importance and in this matter a little more space might have been allowed. The entry under 'tumours', for example, lists only a few sites and varieties and such specific types as angioma, glomus tumours, and myomas must be sought separately. It would be helpful too, and only mildly extravagant, to have the index printed in both volumes.

These criticisms are, however, of quite a minor nature and the author is certainly to be congratulated on a major achievement.

T. CRAWFORD

COMPARATIVE ATHEROSCLEROSIS Edited by J. C. Roberts, Jr., and R. Straus, with M. S. Cooper. (Pp. xxi + 426; 672 illustrations, including an Atlas of 416 in full colour. \$20.00.) New York, Evanston and London: Harper & Row. 1965.

The field covered by this volume is well described by its subtitle which is 'The morphology of spontaneous and induced atherosclerotic lesions in animals and its relations to man'. Fifty-six experimental pathologists, well known for their work on atherosclerosis, have contributed accounts of lesions in different classes of animals studied by a wide variety of techniques. The species studied are spread widely over the animal kingdom and include swine, birds, rodents, whales, fish, reptiles, canines, primates, and man. With such a large number of authors there is naturally considerable variation in quality of the chapters. Amongst the most useful is the section on atherosclerosis in swine, for evidence is accumulating that these animals are particularly suitable for experimental studies in this subject. They share with man not only his omnivorous dietetic tastes but also his tendency to develop intimal plaques from an early age, and the distribution of the lesions is not dissimilar from that in man.

The papers are profusely illustrated and the volume ends with a remarkable atlas of 416 illustrations in full colour. Although of varying quality, these give a clear impression of the lesions found and produced experimentally in this wide range of animals.

The volume is beautifully produced and is strongly

recommended to anyone who is contemplating an experimental study in arterial disease.

T. CRAWFORD

CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN MAN, 10th ed. An Official Report of the American Public Health Association prepared by the Committee on Communicable Disease Control, edited by John E. Gordon. (Pp. 288 + 11s.) New York: American Public Health Association. 1965.

This well-known manual has now reached its tenth edition and summarizes the community management of no fewer than 148 communicable diseases in 288 pages. The diseases are arranged in alphabetical order and for each there are brief sections on the identification and distribution of the infective agent, its mode of transmission, the incubation period of the disease and period of communicability, factors governing susceptibility and resistance, and the methods of control. Under each heading the statements are terse and direct and admirably suited for a manual clearly designed to be used to provide immediate guidance on the action to be taken in the face of almost any infective disease, whether as common as staphylococcal infection of the newborn or as rare—most people's experience—as North Asian tick-borne rickettsiosis. In addition to the descriptions of the diseases there is a useful introductory chapter of definitions.

The Ministry of Health and the Scottish Home and Health Department have been associated with the production of the manual, which is accepted by the Department as being generally applicable in Britain.

Inevitably the compression dictated by the need to keep the manual of truly pocket size leads to some statements that one would really like to see qualified and the standardized list of headings sometimes means that, for example, incubation periods are quoted when they are really quite unknown or hardly relevant. It seems a pity for a book that must be in constant use that the 288 pages should be held together by two staples rather than by proper binding. The index contains a large number of entries where one item is referred to numerous pages without any indication of their significance. Thus 28 page numbers are quoted against the word 'carrier', 29 for 'dog', and 20 for 'soil'.

But these are trivial criticisms to set against the immensely valuable distillation of information that the text represents, and at 11s. the new edition of this book is excellent value. It should be beside the telephone of all hospital infection officers as well as clinical bacteriologists and medical officers of health, and will be found equally valuable by general practitioners and by teachers.

THE COMMON COLD By Sir Christopher Andrewes. The Advancement of Science Series. (Pp. 187; 13 plates and 10 figures. \$4.50.) New York: W. W. Norton & Co. Inc. 1965.

This delightful book, written in Sir Christopher's inimitable style, sets out all that is known about the common cold. In the first chapter the author discusses the background to the problem of the common cold, the way in which symptoms are produced and why it is such