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 angiomata, 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


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


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 as 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 of Health 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 a 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 any 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.


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