a baffling disease. The next few chapters deal with the early attempts to grow the virus in the laboratory at the Common Cold Research Unit at Salisbury, a long-term research project which was started in 1946 due very largely to the instigation of the author himself, and which today thrives as a research centre for the study of respiratory infections. The chapters on the isolation of the rhinoviruses, their properties, natural history, and relationship to other respiratory viruses are extremely well set out and give a clear picture of a complex problem. The final chapters are concerned with the control of colds and here the author makes no attempt to underline the difficulties.

This is a fascinating little book about a subject that must interest a great many people in one way or another whether they are engaged in research on the common cold or merely the victim of one. If the latter, they would be well advised to retire to bed and read this extremely interesting book.

J. A. DUDGEON

AUTOIMMUNITY AND DISEASE By L. E. Glynn and E. J. Holborow. (Pp. viii + 420; illustrated. 60s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1965.

This excellent and readable book provides a comprehensive account of clinical and experimental aspects of autoimmunity. Through their longstanding researches, the authors have developed a broad and critical approach to this growing field. They give a full account of the literature and present the significant contributions with clarity, indicating where experimental evidence is inconclusive, drawing together the known facts into constructive hypotheses and pointing to the directions in which research is moving.

The introductory chapters deal with theoretical aspects of autoimmunity, including modern views on antibody synthesis, immune tolerance, and the functions of the thymus. There follow chapters on systemic lupus erythematosus and rheumatoid arthritis with a particularly good account of experimental models. Individual chapters are devoted to autoimmune phenomena occurring in diseases affecting the nervous system, adrenal, thyroid gland, alimentary tract, kidney, liver, testis, and eye. The authors conclude with a discussion of autoimmune blood disorders and an account of the rheumatic fever problem. The book does not set out to provide a practical manual for the performance of autoantibody reactions but will prove to be essential reading for anyone interested in autoimmunity, not the least those actively engaged in its study.

IVAN M. ROITT

ISOENZYMES By J. H. Wilkinson. (Pp. x + 158; 22 figures; 30 tables. 50s.) London: E. & F. N. Spon. 1965.

Isoenzymes are a fashionable topic in clinical biochemistry. The importance of their study as a part of general enzymology continues to increase, but the high hopes that were originally entertained for their importance

in diagnosis have been disappointed. We do not have an absolutely characteristic alteration of serum enzymes for each disease nor do we have an absolutely characteristic alteration of isoenzyme patterns, though in many cases important additional information is given by their study. Estimation of multiple molecular forms of alkaline phosphatase, acid phosphatase, lactate dehydrogenase and cholinesterase at present add to the general diagnostic value of enzyme assay, and isoenzymes are known to exist of most of the enzymes assayed in the clinical laboratory.

Despite the great interest in the subject, few general review articles on isoenzymes had appeared, and until this volume, there had been no book. The gap is now well filled. Dr. Wilkinson, an enzymologist and clinical biochemist, who has made important personal contributions to our knowledge of isoenzymes, has written a lucid and well-proportioned account (with an excellent bibliography) of present knowledge of this developing subject. There is a general introduction, and discussions of methods of separation, detection and assay, followed by chapters on the isoenzymes of a number of different enzymes: lactate dehydrogenase, other dehydrogenases, the transaminases, the phosphatases, esterases, and some miscellaneous enzymes. Lactate dehydrogenase is rightly discussed in the greatest detail, because it is the enzyme of which the most knowledge is available of the chemistry, biochemistry, metabolic significance, and clinical correlation of its isoenzymes. The list of isoenzymes discussed is not comprehensive; the only important omission is of the isoenzymes of aldolase. I would also like to have had, in the section on techniques, some discussion of immunological methods which are now becoming so important. The illustrations of commercial electrophoresis apparatus are quite unnecessary.

The book is aimed with success at a general biochemical readership. It will be of great value to those engaged in chemical pathology, though pathologists from other disciplines and clinicians will find much in it of interest. The book is well indexed, production is excellent, but the price is high.

D. N. BARON

THE SMALL INTESTINE A Symposium of the 5th Congress of the International Academy of Pathology. Edited by A. C. Thackray and F. Avery Jones. (Pp. ix + 132; illustrated. 22s. 6d.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1965.

This small paperback volume contains a record of the papers and subsequent discussion at a symposium held in London in June 1964. Although the meeting was held under the auspices of the International Academy of Pathology the subject matter is by no means restricted to pathology and indeed nearly half of the contributors are from other disciplines.

The opening paper deals with the normal development and anatomy of the small intestine and also considers certain congenital anomalies. It is followed by papers on electron microscopy and histochemistry, and a detailed review of histopathological changes and their

significance in various diseases. Clinical and pathological aspects of the post-gastrectomy and blind-loop syndromes are considered by three speakers, and it could be salutary to reflect on a numerical fact that is quoted, namely, that approximately 25,000 partial gastrectomies are being performed each year in England and Wales. Accounts are given of recent work on radiological appearances and intestinal immunity, and of experimental work on the role of the intestine in shock. The final papers are by invited speakers with special interests in Crohn's disease, Whipple's disease, and the clinical and biochemical aspects of the carcinoid syndrome.

All the papers in this volume are readable and informative but illustrations are few and consist only of tables and diagrams. The absence of photomicrographs is keenly felt in some of the chapters as just a few selected examples would have enhanced the value of these sections. Overall however, this is a valuable book which provides a useful summary of much recent knowledge of the small intestine.

B. S. CARDELL

THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NEPHROLOGY

The third international congress of nephrology to promote exchange of information on basic and clinical sciences relating to the kidney will be held from 25 to 30 September 1966, in Washington, D.C. Full information, and forms for submission of abstracts, registrations, and hotel reservations, may be obtained from:—Secretariat, III International Congress of Nephrology, 965 Wisconsin Avenue, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

VI INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

The sixth international congress of clinical pathology will be held in Rome from 3 to 8 October 1966 under the sponsorship of the International Society of Clinical Pathology. There will be lectures, symposia, round-table conferences, original communications, scientific demonstrations, and films. Official languages will be Italian, English, and French. All enquiries should be addressed to:—Segreteria del VI Congresso Internazionale Patologia Clinica, Via dei Penitenzieri 13, Roma, Italy.

The March 1966 Issue

THE MARCH 1966 ISSUE CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING PAPERS

Pathological and clinical findings in a series of 67 cases of medullary carcinoma of the thyroid E. D. WILLIAMS, C. L. BROWN, and I. DONIACH

Histogenesis of medullary carcinoma of the thyroid E. D. WILLIAMS

Review of endocrine syndromes associated with tumours of non-endocrine origin C. B. HOBBS and A. L. MILLER

Assessment of the combined usefulness in thyroid function testing of the triiodothyronine resin-sponge and 24-hour iodine uptakes R. A. CARTER

Haemangiomas of the placenta H. FOX

Synthetic progestagen-oestrogen preparations and endometrial morphology WILLIAM B. OBER

Effect of aggregating agents and their inhibitors on the mean platelet shape J. R. O'BRIEN and JOAN B. HEYWOOD

Effects on blood coagulation, fibrinolysis, and platelet aggregation of normal and atheromatous aortic tissue C. R. M. PRENTICE, G. P. MCNICOL, and A. S. DOUGLAS

Differential ferrioxamine test in idiopathic haemochromatosis and transfusional haemosiderosis J. FIELDING, M. C. O'SHAUGHNESSY, and GILLIAN M. BRUNSTRÖM

Effects of desferrioxamine in patients with iron-loading with a simple method for estimating urinary iron M. S. LOSOWSKY

Low plasma haptoglobin in march haemoglobinuria R. B. PAYNE

Significance of tests of iron nutrition in pregnancy J. METZ, L. TURCHETTI, B. COMBRINK, and S. KRAWITZ

Human infection due to the hedgehog fungus, *Trichophyton mentagrophytes* var. *erinacei* R. A. QUAIFE

A comparison of Coomassie blue dye with radioiodinated albumin as an indicator for plasma volume estimation in human subjects IAN S. MENZIES

Antiplasmin activity of electrophoretically separated human serum fractions R. D. MANN, SUSAN COTTON, and D. JACKSON

Howell-Jolly bodies in idiopathic steatorrhea I. FRASER, C. F. MCCARTHY, and A. E. READ

Fatty crystals in sclerema neonatorum C. PROKŠ and V. VALVODA

Effect of ethylene-diamine-tetra-acetic acid (dipotassium salt) and heparin on the estimation of packed cell volume C. A. PENNOCK and K. W. JONES

Technical methods

Simple colour reaction for alkaptonuria K. VAMIKINATHAN and NINAN VERGHESE

Simple method for measuring the penetration of antibiotics through mucus B. A. SAGGERS

Simple data analyser for laboratory statistics PETER CLARK

The Tunbridge Report and the laboratory

Book reviews

Copies are still available and may be obtained from the PUBLISHING MANAGER,
BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, W.C.1. price 18s. 6d.