

Book reviews

HEMORRHAGE AND THROMBOSIS A Practical Clinical Guide By Edwin W. Salzman and Anthony Britten (Pp. xi + 257; 21 figures; 15 tables. 72s.) Boston: Little & Brown; London: J. & A. Churchill. 1965.

To the spite of monographs on blood coagulation, intelligible chiefly only to those in the trade, we may now add an eddy current of 'do it yourself' books designed to acquaint lesser mortals with the facts of haemostasis. This volume lies in the second category and its authors, an American surgeon and a British research haematologist, offer it to the average clinician as a practical approach to the diagnosis and treatment of haemostatic disorders. It should, therefore, be reviewed from the standpoint of the enquiring amateur rather than the esoteric professional.

As one would expect, it provides a chatty and necessarily superficial survey, but it is eminently readable (how pleasant to see the word 'staunch' used once again in a clinical context) and its dogmatically matter-of-fact approach can scarcely be faulted. Thus it is perfectly reasonable to offer to a surgeon the aphorism 'an abnormal TGT is always significant. A normal TGT is almost always an indication of normality though very mild cases of haemophilia can be overlooked', without raising imponderable technological issues. Though, to say that replacement of bone marrow by other tissues is a common cause of thrombocytopenia begs several questions regarding both the nature of leukaemia and the life expectancy of platelets.

There are chapters on general principles of haemostasis and thrombosis; on inherited and acquired disorders; on acute transient bleeding states; and on iatrogenic extracorporeal circulatory disturbances. A section on clinical and laboratory diagnosis is followed by another on anticoagulant therapy and a full bibliography up to 1963.

This book can be recommended to interested clinicians, and only rarely will they be let down if they adopt its instructions.

J. L. STAFFORD

ANTICOAGULANT THERAPY By Louis B. Jaques. (Pp. xiii + 156; 29 figures. \$7.50). Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1965.

Dr. Louis Jaques was a member of the original research team which developed heparin as a therapeutic anticoagulant. His considerable contributions to the understanding of coagulation and haemostasis have since spanned 30 years.

Because the hospital routine of surveillance of patients on anticoagulants differs on each side of the Atlantic, the title of this 150-page monograph may deter the average British clinician, but day-to-day administration is only a fraction of the problem: the underlying pharmacological principles are of common interest to all. In two introductory chapters, Dr. Jaques refers

briefly to current theories and it is not unduly surprising that he then devotes 60 pages to heparin and only 30 to the coumarins and indanediones. The remaining 30 pages refer to spontaneous haemorrhage with anti-coagulants and its management. With the return to popularity of heparin, especially in cardiac and thoracic pump surgery, many surgeons will find his coverage to be a convenient reminder of its clinical properties.

Although the principal value of this book to the British clinician lies in its references to heparin, it can be commended to any worker in the field of coagulation as a helpful summary of Dr. Jaques' researches and his views on a subject on which he is an authority. Although necessarily a brief survey, the text can be read easily and rapidly, and is only infrequently interrupted by cited references, of which a third are the author's own.

J. L. STAFFORD

PATHOLOGY OF THE SPINAL CORD By J. Trevor Hughes. (Pp. ix + 196; illustrated. 40s.) London: Lloyd-Luke, (Medical Books) Ltd.

This attractively written monograph is based upon and reflects the author's personal experience as a morbid anatomist and pathologist at the National Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in 1956 and at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford. The subject of his M.D. thesis (1961) was acute idiopathic myelomalacia and his subsequent published work has been chiefly upon vascular disorders of the spinal cord. He is thus well qualified to guide morbid anatomists who, although skilled in necropsy and biopsy work, find the examination of the spinal cord technically exacting and their histological preparations difficult to interpret. They have been specially catered for in the final chapter on the necropsy examination of the spinal cord, though not everyone would agree to remove and fix the bony spine and its contents intact. The author says, however, that the removal can be done in 15 minutes and that subsequent examination after fixation means fewer artefacts due to mechanical trauma and a more complete examination, at leisure, of this part of the body.

The range of pathological entities is wide, with especially good chapters on 'Vascular disorders', 'Trauma to the spinal cord', and 'Disorders of the spine'. The other chapters on 'Developmental, congenital, and inherited disorders of the spinal cord', on 'Inflammatory diseases' (confined to organismal infection), on 'Toxic, deficiency and degenerative diseases', on 'Demyelinating diseases' and on 'Tumours' are adequate, though it is not true to say that Great Britain has eradicated rabies. Each chapter has good references and is well illustrated by photographs of adequate size. The index is adequate.

The publishers are to be congratulated on the format of the book which should be a real help to the morbid anatomist.

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