Book reviews

THE PATHOLOGY OF LABORATORY ANIMALS Edited by W. E. Ribelin and J. R. McCoy (Pp. ix + 436; illustrated. \$14.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1965. This book contains papers directed to the experimental pathologist, which were presented at a conference sponsored by the Section of Microbiology of the New York Academy of Medicine and the New York Pathological Society.

The book deals mainly with the mouse, rat, guinea-pig, rabbit, hamster, and monkey, and some chapters are concerned with only one or two species. Thus, there are papers on spontaneous lesions of mice with special reference to sexual dimorphism, endocrine peculiarities, alterations accompanying the growth of certain tumours and lesions related to strain and age, by Dunn; on lesions, chiefly neoplastic, of rats (Snell); on the hamster (Handler); on the rabbit, particularly diseases with a genetic background (Greene); and monkey (Weston). Musculo-skeletal lesions in a variety of animals are discussed by Sokoloff, and neoplastic and non-neoplastic lesions of the reticulo-endothelial system of mice by Cosgrove and Upton. Innes lists and illustrates lesions of the respiratory tract of various species, Fleischman discusses diseases of the endocrine system of primates, dogs, rats, and mice; Bloom, spontaneous renal lesions of dogs and cats; Lehr, inflammatory and degenerative lesions of the cardiovascular system; Ruebner, Lindsey, and Melby, spontaneous liver diseases; and Blumenthal and Rogers, spontaneous and induced neoplasms of the guinea-pig. In two final chapters, Paget and Lemon compare 'conventional and S.P.F. rats' and Nelson deals with the recording and reporting of laboratory data. Useful bibliographies and a record of the related discussion appear at the end of each chapter.

The book is not meant to be an encyclopaedic account of the pathology of every spontaneous disease of all laboratory animals, but it does contain a good deal of important, useful and sometimes hitherto unreported information. It is welcome in that it records, sometimes for the first time, some of the wealth of information that has been accumulated by workers greatly experienced in the field of laboratory animal pathology and makes it available to others who may be in difficulties in interpreting pathological findings in the tissues of the animals with which they are dealing.

E. COTCHIN

TEXTBOOK OF VETERINARY CLINICAL PARASITOLOGY, Vol. 1. Helminths By E. J. L. Soulsby. (Pp. xxxii + 1120; 214 illustrations. 189s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1965.

This is the first of two volumes: the second, dealing with the protozoa and arthropods, is promised for next year. The book will obviously be of most interest to the veterinarian, whether undergraduate, postgraduate or practising, but the medical man, and especially the public health

worker, parasitologist, and pathologist, will all find much of value in it. Not only has the author given a very detailed description of life cycles, epidemiology, immunology and control and assimilated a lot of information on pathogenesis and pathology, but he also deals with more specific medical aspects. There is a final section on 'zoonoses and anthroponoses', which deals with trichinosis and cysticercosis, and a check list enables references to other parasites infesting humans to be traced in the rest of the book.

The parasites concerned—nematodes, trematodes, and cestodes—are not confined to those occurring in Great Britain. They are dealt with from the standpoint of the different host species they affect rather than from the zoological classification of the parasite. Thus, the first chapters deal with the helminths of dogs and cats and later ones with those of pigs, sheep and goats, cattle, horses, and poultry.

The book is well produced on good paper, but unfortunately the reproduction of some illustrations is faint.

This is a master work by an outstanding veterinary parasitologist, who is concerned with the biology of the parasite, its effects on the host and immunological aspects of how the latter reacts, than with morphological minutiae. The book is recommended as a reference work to any medical man who may wish or need to know something about parasitic diseases in domestic animals, both because of their extraordinary intrinsic interest and of the possible relationship of certain parasites to human disease.

E. COTCHIN

HANDBOOK FOR MORTUARY TECHNICIANS By J. L. Emery and A. G. Marshall. (Pp. xi + 220; 64 illustrations. 42s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1966.

'In this book, the authors have attempted to set out what they think is the basic knowledge necessary for a mortuary technician to carry out his work efficiently and with interest and thus, while a number of things mentioned in this book will not necessarily be the direct responsibility of the mortuary technician, we feel that it is better for him to be over, rather than under informed.'

'The book is broken up into sections with instructions on what is required of a technician during a necropsy and afterwards, so that it can be handed to anyone deputising for a mortuary porter.'

After an interesting outline of the history of anatomical dissection there are chapters on anatomy with some useful physiology and brief anatomical directions for guidance in post-mortem dissection including removal of the eyes, as for corneal grafting. There is also some information about death and cremation certificates as well as short notes on infection, disinfectants, on radioactivity, on fixatives; and there are tables of weights of infant and adult organs. The book is easily read, the style is colloquial. It is unfortunate that the book was not written to a