Paper by Herman Suit deals with radiotherapy under conditions of local tissue hypoxia (readily produced in the distal part of a limb by the application of a pneumatic tourniquet) in the hope of eliminating differential radiosensitivity of normal and relatively anoxic areas of tumour tissue. It still remains to be shown, however, that better results are obtained than with more conventional methods.

The section on tumours of soft tissues is of outstanding interest to the surgical pathologist in that it directs attention to a number of recently recognized entities—variously known as ‘infantile fibromatosis’, ‘calcifying aponeurotic fibroma’, ‘nodular fasciitis’, and ‘desmoid fibrosarcoma’—which are not infrequently confused histologically with frankly malignant lesions but are relatively benign. The papers of Enzinger and of Butler, in the present volume, are commended as a source of useful information on these interesting and important lesions.

H. A. SISSONS


It would be hard to conceive a volume for which a greater need exists than this, in view of the astonishing rapidity with which new methods of laboratory diagnosis are introduced and become indispensable. Against a background of continually increasing requests, chronic staff shortage, and claims and counterclaims about the value of computers, the subject of clinical pathology has become highly charged with angst.

This book consists of 15 chapters each written by an expert or group of experts consisting of university staff, hospital staff, and one medical student. Nine chapters are devoted to clinical chemistry, two to bacteriology, one to haematology, one to the scope of clinical pathology, one to normal values, and finally an excellent, but perhaps over-condensed, chapter on computers. It is plain that the book is not comprehensive and there are obvious gaps, e.g., the investigation of non-haemolytic anaemias and in virology. The preface, however, explains that further volumes are planned. Most of the material is first class, but particular mention should be given to the chapters devoted to plasma proteins.

The standard of production is high: each chapter includes a full bibliography and there is a good index. The book would be invaluable reading for all those interested in hospital laboratory investigations, which should include a very large proportion of the medical profession.

W. G. SPECTOR


This book is based on the collective experience of three scientists working on microscopy in the East German factory of Carl Zeiss. The first 50 pages are devoted to a pedantic consideration of optical principles probably too detailed for the average practical worker. The section that distinguishes this book from others is the lucid treatment of macrophotography, low-power photomicrography, and associated special forms of illumination. Most other special techniques are usefully if briefly covered. The index is not as comprehensive as it should be for practical reference and the range of equipment described is necessarily restricted. Most of the illustrated examples are apposite and useful.

PETER HANSSELL


This short book of little more than 70 pages consists of two almost equal parts. The first gives an account of the principles of colorimetry, ending with a few pages on how to use library facilities; the second considers examples of colorimetric methods for 15 commonly determined substances, though for only eight are full details of the technique included. There are four pages of references.

This is a rewritten version of a similar book by Dr. Delory, 'Photoelectric methods in clinical biochemistry'. published in 1949. At that time this was useful in drawing attention to what was a relatively new type of instrument. One wonders if now it would have been better to concentrate on the first part on 'Principles and instrumentation' and to expand this, for example, by including fuller descriptions of instruments in use today?

H. VARLEY


This book is written by a journalist and it is reasonably free from some of the extravagancies one might expect from a journalist writing on a sensational theme. It is an account of 22 murder trials in which British forensic pathologists, ranging from the late Sir Bernard Spilsbury to those practising today, have given important or material evidence.

These are not all famous cases but, as pathologists we know, some of the most interesting scientific and legal problems are found in trials which do not achieve notoriety. Pathologists will find interesting light reading in these accounts, which are well written, and may even be led to seek further details of some of the points discussed. The book has seven pictures of forensic pathologists.

G. STEWART SMITH

BROADSHEETS

The list of Broadsheets published for the Association of Clinical Pathologists will in future be found on the inside back cover of the Journal. Kindly note revised prices and where orders should be placed.