
A number of books have now been written on blood transfusion and immunohaematology in general. These books are sometimes of a clinical nature or describe the blood groups and their multiple subgroups, whereas some of them are essentially practical books dealing with technical procedures. This book falls within the latter category.

The techniques which are described are numbered and the details clearly given, and at the conclusion of many of them there is a comment on the particular technique described. This book, however, is not entirely concerned with practical matters and there is sufficient theoretical content given in a simple and straightforward manner to enable those doing practical work to understand its meaning. In some sections this theoretical content could, with advantage, be a little fuller but nevertheless it is nearly always adequate. The book also contains descriptions of bench routine and the arrangement of the work which is necessary to get the best possible results. In this third edition of the book, the authors have added a very useful chapter on the basic essentials of forensic blood grouping, which includes information concerning tests for doubtful paternity together with methods necessary for the identification of stains. The book also contains numerous illustrations, tables, and clear diagrams, and the index is good.

It can be confidently recommended for those technicians, scientific workers, and others who normally engage in actual practical blood grouping and allied work.

F. STRATTON


This is a pocket book which was first published in 1962 and now reappears in a second edition with extensive revisions. The text is divided into six chapters: 1 Haemoglobin and associated pigment; 2 Red blood cells; 3 Anaemia; 4 Peripheral white blood cells; 5 Bone marrow; 6 Bleeding, clotting, and transfusion. A book which is limited by size must, of necessity, have omissions and a reviewer may not necessarily agree with the author's assessment of the relative importance of his subject matter. Haemorrhagic disorders occupy over one third of the entire book while leukaemia does not even get a mention in the index. 'Transfusion' is confined to a brief section dealing only with blood transfusion hazards and incompatible blood transfusion. It is a minor criticism that the Paul-Bunnell and Rose-Waaler tests appear in the chapter on red blood cells; it is of more concern that the author devotes a section to the

MAGNUS HAINES

678