moreover not International Units. Reference to 'cortisol in plasma' directs us to '17-hydroxycorticosteroids' but should read '11-hydroxycorticosteroids'. The causes of elevated serum vitamin B12 levels are recorded but those of decreased values are not. Although a list relating levels of alcohol to symptoms is given, we are not told whether blood or urine figures are being used and the legally important blood level of 80 mg/100 ml is not mentioned. Whilst a number of sections have been deleted from this edition as not being useful, the retention of the Kepler, Power Robinson test is difficult to justify.

In the preface to the first edition, the author is careful to emphasize the limitations of the approach to clinical chemistry characterized by this book. It is to be feared that most of those who buy will not heed his good advice.

B. W. MEADE


A symposium concerning various aspects relating to the cerebrospinal fluid was held early in 1965 in Vienna and this volume records some two dozen communications together with the ensuing discussion of each.

Appropriately an excellent pathological and anatomical survey by Professor Seitelberger is recorded first for he was largely responsible for the volume. It is difficult to single out particular papers for the excellence of so many is obvious. These range from aspects of pharmacology, detailed electron microscopic appearances of the choroid plexus and the glia, the cytology of the cerebrospinal fluid itself illustrated by some beautiful photographs, the electrophoretic pattern of proteins and the results of amino acid examinations, especially in Parkinson's disease, Huntington's chorea, and polymyelitis. There are also valuable papers on immunoelectrophoresis, the results of which are well illustrated.

The volume is well produced but is entirely in German; however, all symposia have the failing of not producing abstracts in another language. To those interested in the cerebrospinal fluid it can be well recommended.

J. N. CUMINGS


Since it was first published before the war, this book has guided several generations of medical research workers. This edition is largely based on the successful seventh edition, but has been expanded in two important sections. With the great increase recently in clinical trials, the chapter dealing with the ethics of these situations has been enlarged; the important statements of the Medical Research Council and the Helsinki declaration are included as an appendix.

The other main change is a last chapter on statistical evidence and inference. This is now a non-mathematical discussion of the meaning of significance tests and the inferences which can be drawn from differences which are unlikely to be due to chance. The issues are clearly stated and the logical conclusions drawn. This chapter now forms an important guide for anyone interested in medical research, whether or not he intends to employ the numerical methods described in the earlier parts.

Written especially for the doctor, this book continues to be one of the best introductions available to the non-mathematician.

I. D. P. WOOTTON


This slim publication contains nine papers on heparin and oral anticoagulants given at a meeting held by the medical faculty at Nancy. The participants were all from French universities with a strong local representation.

The introduction by Dr. Soulier, which lays down some important guiding principles governing anticoagulant administration, is excellent. The remaining papers are on the pharmacology of anticoagulant drugs, the principles of laboratory control, and the clinical applications and dangers of therapy.

It would probably have been more helpful at the publication stage to expand the papers to cover their subject more comprehensively and to include adequate references to the published literature. Most of the chapters contain no references at all, and some, e.g., the paper on side effects, do not adequately cover the subject.

The international nomenclature for clotting factors was not always used and there was overlap between contribution, e.g., heparin therapy, with differing opinions. Those conversant with the English language literature on anticoagulants will probably find little to change their views or opinions on this controversial subject.

L. POLLER

Symposia

THE THYROID GLAND

Orders for symposia on the thyroid gland and tissue and organ transplantation should be addressed to the Publishing Manager, Journal of Clinical Pathology, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1, and those who are entitled to the concessionary price of 25s. for each symposium, as members of the Association or as subscribers to the Journal of Clinical Pathology should say so when ordering copies. For all other purchasers the price is 30s. (including postage).