Book reviews

VASCULAR HISTOCHEMISTRY By C. W. M. Adams. (Pp. 448; 167 figures. 120s.) London: Lloyd-Luke Ltd. 1967.

The changes which develop in the walls of the blood vessels in disease states are associated with innumerable disturbances of chemical constitution and reactivity. These involve not only the lipid make up but also the mucopolysaccharides, proteins, tissue enzymes, and minerals. It is fortunate that such a skilled histochemist as Professor C. W. M. Adams should turn his energies to this rich material and has found time to compile this most useful monograph incorporating the work of his team and reviewing the work of others.

A chapter describing the histochemical features of normal vascular tissues (including the heart) is followed by an excellent 50-page review of the general features of atherosclerosis. This includes an assessment of pathogenetic factors and winds us with the author's personal interpretation of the evidence. Next comes the 'meat' of the book: some 160 pages of detailed histochemistry of atherosclerotic lesions, coagulation phenomena, and cerebral and myocardial infarcts. This impressive section includes consideration of lipid transport in the vessel walls and never neglects to correlate chemical and morphological changes.

There follow briefer accounts of the histochemistry of other arterial diseases, including a masterly survey of the reactions of so-called fibrinoid as it occurs in a variety of conditions, a beautifully illustrated account of the chemical features of diabetic renal vascular lesions, and an excellent review on the subject of amyloid.

The final section is a most useful glossary explaining some 200 histochemical terms and technical methods. This is a helpful addition which adds much to the comprehensibility of the text to the non-chemical reader.

Professor Adams is to be congratulated on producing a monograph which is a most useful addition to all who are interested in the important subject of arterial disease.

T. CRAWFORD

PHYSIOLOGY OF HEMOSTASIS AND THROMBOSIS Edited by S. A. Johnson and W. H. Seegers. (Pp. xiv + 338; illustrated. \$13.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1967.

Symposia on limited fields of research are valuable to those who take part since the participants have the opportunity to discuss their own results with other experts and to obtain the reactions of rival groups to their own ideas and interpretations. When the proceedings are published the book provides a record from which a wider public can assess the present situation as viewed by those actively engaged in research. This book is a valuable contribution in a field of study where advances are at present being made very fast. The experimental evidence is concerned mainly with platelets. An excellent review

of platelet viscous metamorphosis is given by Luscher and Davey and of platelet aggregation by Haslam and by Salzman. Johnson and co-workers and Mustard and his colleagues contribute very clear, readable articles on the mechanism of occlusion of injured blood vessels. Studies on patients with von Willebrand's disease are described by Stormorken. The biochemical constituents of platelets and their structure as seen with the electron microscope are discussed. That this book does not concern itself much with blood clotting is not a defect. In the past the platelet contribution to haemostasis and thrombosis has been underestimated and the present swing in favour of the platelets will redress this previous imbalance. The book will be valuable to all those who are interested in blood coagulation and haemostasis. The book is well produced and the contributions comprehensible without too much previous knowledge. Dr. Shirley Johnson is to be congratulated on organising the symposium and on the production of this lucid report.

ROSEMARY BIGGS

CLINICAL VIROLOGY By R. H. A. Swain and T. C. Dodds. (Pp. xii + 318; 241 figures. 75s.) Edinburgh and London: E. and S. Livingstone Ltd. 1967.

Clinical virology is a rapidly expanding subject in which new discoveries and new laboratory techniques are constantly being reported. This has transformed the subject from the confines of a few specialized laboratories to a much wider field in which many clinical pathologists today take an active interest. At the same time if virology is to be taught at the clinical level it can be made a subject of considerable interest to the medical student, for here he can be taught many of the fundamentals of preventive medicine which may at least have some meaning to him. It is difficult in a book of this sort to do without illustrations and other aids to teaching, however good the descriptive word, but in this book Dr. Swain and Mr. Dodds have achieved an excellent compromise between a textbook and an atlas. The book is divided into two main sections, the first dealing with general properties of viruses and the second with virus infections based on the system of the body affected. The text is extremely clearly written, although somewhat on the short side, but this is offset by the quality of the production. The authors' advice on vaccination seems rather old-fashioned for 1968. The book is profusely illustrated, indeed it is the highlight of the book. There are 241 illustrations, including figures, diagrams, clinical photographs and photomicrographs, both in black and white and colour. Most of them are excellent, especially the black and white illustrations. The colour illustrations have also reproduced very well except for one or two photomicrographs which lack definition. This book provides an excellent introduction to clinical virology and as such will be much in demand by medical and veterinary