Another problem is the use of terms peculiar to different disciplines: how many readers will be able to define both right-handed circularly polarized light and pressor?

There are odd points which need correction: no one now believes (p.116) that the placenta converts acetate to oestrogens; also the 'thyrocalcitonin' of Tenenhouse *et al*, used for studies of chemistry, immunoassay, and tissue localization (p. 616), was apparently an impurity. The latter underlines the dilemma of a textbook in a developing subject: whether to be out of date or describe unsubstantiated work. There is no doubt that the authors have steered a skilful course between these various perils and the result is an admirable set of reviews of a difficult subject.

M. J. LEVELL and G. H. LATHE

A POCKET VIROLOGY By R. J. C. Hart. (Pp. 65; 9 figures. 12s.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1968.

This little book is intended to introduce to students and practitioners of medicine the basic principles of diagnostic virology. It is written in admirably clear English and illustrated with simple diagrams.

The first chapters describe viruses and outline the techniques which may be used to investigate suspected virus infections. The clinical syndromes associated with virus disease are briefly described, along with the diagnostic procedures recommended for their investigation. The last two chapters deal with virus vaccines and the present state of antiviral therapy.

It is the declared intention of this book to aid clinicians so that they may collect appropriate specimens and supply the clinical and epidemiological information that will enable the laboratory to examine the specimens properly. In this one hopes that it will succeed.

JOAN R. DAVIES

INTRODUCTION TO ANIMAL VIROLOGY By A. P. Waterson. (Pp. x + 176; illustrated. 35s.) London: Cambridge University Press. 1968.

There has long been a need for a short introductory book on animal virology. The need existed seven years ago when the first edition of this book appeared and the need exists today, probably more so owing to the increasing number of people taking an interest in virology. This book was written for students, and it is strongly recommended for students. But it will have a far wider appeal because it is so well written. It is clear; it is precise; it is a mine of information concentrated into 160 pages. This edition has been largely re-written mainly on account of the developments which have taken place in virology in the past few years and as a result of new thinking on many aspects such as the replication of viruses. The subject matter, however, is similar in layout. The first two chapters are devoted to the study of viruses and the nature of the virion. These are fine examples of lucid writing which medical students especially are advised to read. The remaining six chapters are devoted to a description of various laboratory techniques, the infected cell, tumours, and genetics of animal viruses. Throughout the book are numerous illustrations all of a high quality, especially the electron micrographs, and all helping to explain to the reader

some important property of viruses. The author says that the book is highly selective; it certainly is, but this is an advantage in one of this size. Having gained an insight into virology from reading this the student, or whoever the reader may be, can proceed to read further and in this he is assisted by a useful bibliography and suggestions for further reading.

This book is strongly recommended for anyone interested in virology whether he be student or clinician.

J. A. DUDGEON

BACTERIOLOGY ILLUSTRATED 2nd ed. By R. R. Gillies and T. C. Dodds. (Pp. 191. 47s. 6d.) London and Edinburgh. 1968.

Since the first edition of this book appeared three years ago it has been very popular with technicians as an introduction to their subject, with medical students revising for examinations, and with resident pathologists as a technical guide in carrying out their emergency work.

In this second edition the authors have wisely resisted the temptation to expand the text very far, but the inclusion of brief notes on lesions caused by the various pathogens is valuable. There is a new chapter on immunization procedures and the section on *Pseudomonas* sp. includes notes and pictures on pyocine typing.

It is perhaps a pity that the authors have not taken this opportunity to bring the nomenclature more in line with other bacteriological textbooks and that they have made no mention of *Bacteroides* sp. in their otherwise excellent chapter on wound exudates. These are minor points, however, and the book remains a useful, enjoyable, and beautifully illustrated atlas.

M. PATRICIA JEVONS

RENAL HYPERTENSION By I. H. Page and J. McGubbin. (Pp. 481. 175s.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers Inc. London: Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd. 1968.

This is a formidable book. Preparation of the book centred around an international symposium at the Cleveland Clinic in 1966, at which 76 persons attended. Instead of publishing the manuscripts as they were given they were largely rewritten to weld them into a homogeneous and critical review of the subject. This process may have been 'nettling to the authors' and very difficult for the two editors but the result is a most satisfactory success. The subject is thoroughly covered and the information is easy to find, for in addition to the Table of Contents which lists the chapter headings, each chapter begins with a breakdown of its contents. The style is crisp and lucid.

There are chapters on the structure and estimations of renin and angiotensin; the control of renin release; vascular reactivity; the effect of renin and angiotensin on the excretion of water and electrolytes; the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system; a masterly 40 clinical pages on renal arterial stenosis and parenchymal disease; the relationship of hypertension to vascular changes and an 'envoi' chapter by Dr Page entitled 'A unifying view of renal hypertension'. And there are other chapters,