Book reviews

SARCOIDOSIS By J. G. Scadding. (Pp. 542; illustrated. 7 gns.) London: Eyre and Spottiswoode Ltd. 1967.

In November 1937 Professor Snapper of Amsterdam gave two notable lectures on 'Pseudotuberculosis in man' in the University of London; the first dealt with 'Besnier-Boeck's disease', the second with 'Regional ileitis'. Snapper's account of sarcoidosis captivated the interest of a young chest physician and now, after 30 years of clinical experience, Professor Scadding has provided us with a masterpiece, for this monograph is a perfect blend of personal clinical knowledge with an informed appraisal of the work of others and covers every aspect of the disease.

It would be wrong to suggest that only certain chapters of this book will be of value to pathologists, for it is just as important that he should understand the natural history of pulmonary sarcoidosis as the significance of the Kveim reaction; nevertheless two of the most thought-provoking chapters are those on immunology and aetiology, for these are the aspects of this disease that engender most discussion.

In the chapters on immunology and the Kveim reactions, the facts are set out and these are reviewed in the light of all the other evidence in the discussion on aetiology. Having presented objectively the evidence in support and against each of the aetiological theories, Professor Scadding concludes that his personal viewpoint 'at the time of writing' is that 'the majority of cases of sarcoidosis seen in England are related to *M. tuberculosis* infection. It seems possible that in such cases the sarcoidosis is a response to an antigen or antigen antibody complex associated with the myo-bacterial infection in a subject with a special sort of alteration of reactivity', and then goes on to suggest that, from a long term epidemiological point of view, the disease might be regarded as a feature of the late stages of a tuberculous epidemic in a population. These views would be shared by the majority of those who have studied the disease in all its aspects and would, if anything, be substantiated by the recent reports of the simulation of the disease in guinea pigs injected with sarcoid

material. It is unnecessary to say that the book is a pleasure to read and the illustrations, whether of photo-micrographs, radiographs, or clinical manifestations are of very high quality.

A. H. T. ROBB-SMITH

HORMONES IN BLOOD 2nd ed. Vol. 1. Edited by C. H. Gray and A. L. Bacharach. (Pp. xvii + 577; illustrated. 150s.) London and New York: Academic Press. 1967.

This volume covers chapters 1-10 of the first edition 'Peptide hormones and thyroid hormones', with additional chapters on Sephadex chromatography, immunoassay, and hypothalamic-releasing factors. Each hormone is treated in a separate chapter, usually by a different author, with accounts of its occurrence, chemical properties, methods of analysis, and of the factors, both physiological and pathological, affecting its plasma concentrations.

On average a third of each chapter is devoted to analytical methods. This is, however, no laboratory manual. There are concise assessments of the potentials of the different available methods: the kind of information one needs for choosing a method or for assessing the value of published results. There is occasional unnecessary analytical detail which the editors might have cut out. Comparison of the first and second editions illustrates the degree to which radioimmunoassay methods are replacing bioassay for the peptide hormones. The difficulties of radioimmunoassay are well brought out in chapter 2 and besides the well-known problems of obtaining pure hormone and of raising antibodies there are others of species specificity and of the separation of biological and immunological activities in fragmented peptides. This chapter is disappointingly brief on methods of raising antibodies but the authors point out that little critical work has been done.

The sections devoted to blood levels in different physiological and pathological states are admirably clear and will provide a much needed reference source for the chemical pathologist.

Many of the authors describe the physiological properties of the hormones with, in one or two cases, detailed accounts of the biochemical mechanism of action. These sections are very uneven: there has been no attempt to review work on the actions of insulin and the thyroid hormones (which is understandable) but what a shame that Dr Lorraine did not take the opportunity, in his most authoritative review of gonadotrophins, to clear up what is to most of us a very confusing field (not helped by the nomenclature—HPG, HCG, PMG, FSH, ICSH, LH, LTH!).

One is only occasionally made aware of the multiple authorship, for example, prolactin and growth hormone are dealt with separately, and the area of overlap needs careful reading in both chapters to dispel the first impression of conflict.

The book concludes with a new chapter giving a clear account of hypothalamic-releasing factors (although the data on plasma concentrations of these is almost confined to rats).

In summary the book contains a wealth of material on the chemistry, analysis, and plasma concentrations of hormones (mainly polypeptides) with accounts of the physiological actions of most of them. It is well produced with a pleasing uniformity of style and will appeal to all who are interested in polypeptide hormone analysis or the interpretation of plasma concentrations of these hormones.

M. J. LEVELL

LECTURE NOTES ON PATHOLOGY 2nd ed. By A. D. Thomson and R. E. Cotton. (Pp. xvi + 1138. £3 3s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd. 1968.

This is something of a cross between a time table and an aide memoire. It could be valuable to aged pathologists collecting their thoughts for a differential diagnosis or a lecture, likewise to younger ones priming their mental tanks for the Primary. It might be useful as a mentor to already well informed students focusing on an examination, but not as substitute for a textbook.

It is good to see the kidney of subacute bacterial endocarditis now recognized as not embolic, although it is still under that heading. The term 'neoplasm' has not yet sufficiently replaced 'tumour' when neoplasms are being described, and it is shocking to see sterolosis of the gall-bladder called cholesterosis (p. 834). Neither chemical nor enzyme appear in the index; admittedly phosphatase and acid phosphatase do, but alkaline phosphatase and transaminase are missing.

The terse telegraphic style and clear arrangement make it easy to see omissions; errors of commission are rare but the didacticism gives a spurious validity to views still debatable. The older reader will sense and accept this, appreciating the gain of new chapters on genetics, immunology, electrolyte balance, and exfoliative cytology. None the less users of the book (until such time as they can telephone the computer) would be better served by a stronger chemical slant and a more compendious and exact index.

This edition merits a place on the shelf of the working pathologist, beside the dictionary. Not that you need the latter, gentle reader, but the day comes when confidence-stealing doubts cripple your

spelling, or even suppress the name of a disease you haven't seen for a while. Reach then for Thomson and Cotton.

A. C. LENDRUM

THE OCCURRENCE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF MYOCARDIAL BRIDGES AND LOOPS ON CORONARY ARTERIES. By P. Poláček and A. Zechmeister. (Pp. 101; illustrated. kčs 13.50.) University J. E. Purkyne, Brno—Medical Faculty. 1968.

This volume is a short monograph reporting an intensive and detailed study of the occurrence of myocardial bridges over the coronary arteries. These are normal anatomical structures which have been seen by all who dissect the coronary arteries carefully. The name, which is frequently in this monograph extended to 'muscular overbridgings', applies to areas in which the main coronary vessels run through superficial tunnels in which a leaf of myocardium passes between the artery and the epicardium in a part of its course which is usually extra-myocardial. These bridges have been observed in 85.7% of the hearts dissected. Their distribution has been analysed in relation to sex and various other variables and a study has been added of the occurrence of the bridges in a wide variety of animals. No direct relationship has been established with myocardial infarction but it is suggested that there is some increased predilection to atherosclerotic processes close to the bridges.

The authors are to be congratulated on such a detailed study which has finally disposed of the idea that these anatomical variations have pathological significance.

T. CRAWFORD

MIND AS A TISSUE Edited by Charles Rupp. (Pp. x + 357; illustrated. 40s.) New York: Hoeber Medical Division. 1968.

This book is the proceedings and edited (*sic*) discussions of a conference held in Philadelphia towards the end of 1966 at which an attempt was made to bring together certain aspects of those sciences which collectively provide the basis of modern 'organic' psychiatry. It may have been successful as a conference, but not as a book. Most people engaged in the practice of psychiatry and its supporting disciplines will find something in this book to interest them. But as each chapter is in effect an original paper or partial review standing alone—in many cases with only the most tenuous connexion with its companions—there will be few who will wish to read more than a few selected

items. Chapters likely to be of particular interest to clinical biochemists and pathologists are those on 'Biochemical factors in psychotic depressions' by Bunney and 'Endocrine order and disorder basic to mind' by Cleghorn, though the latter is more philosophical than physiological.

My review copy was badly produced, two of the chapters being quite unreadable as no less than 16 non-consecutive pages of text were entirely devoid of print.

VINCENT MARKS

THE CYTOLOGY OF EFFUSIONS AND CEREBROSPINAL FLUID. By A. I. Spriggs and M. M. Boddington. (Pp. 174; illustrated. 126s.) London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1968.

The second edition of this monograph has resulted from 10 further years of experience in the field of cytodiagnosis by Dr Spriggs and his co-author, Mr Boddington.

It is significant that in spite of the increased impetus of cytochemistry the authors sadly conclude that special stains are unlikely to solve the problem of malignant cell diagnosis. Rather have they relied on that 'skill born of experience' in traditional stain preparations and leant towards cytogenetics and cell metabolism studies for confirmatory tests. A useful account of simple chromosome analysis and karyotyping is a welcome addition to this volume.

As before, the authors prefer the use of the Romanowsky group of stains but do accept that the Papanicolaou stain provides certain advantages and they present both forms in their illustrations.

The text has very largely been rewritten and has led to clearer and more detailed descriptions of both cell types and disease patterns.

The photography is much improved and more than trebled in amount with 115 half-tone and 81 colour plates, the latter of good clarity and tinctorial quality. One is sorry, however, to see all the artistic efforts in cell painting by Mrs Spriggs which graced the first edition have been left out.

A much wider range of cell appearance is presented and includes electromicrograph and special stains, the results of considerable new material from the Oxford laboratory and some well chosen examples from other authorities.

The account of reticulosis has been elaborated with good illustrative examples, and the problems of diagnosis of mesothelioma simply and clearly presented.

A whole new chapter on cerebrospinal fluid has been added which provides an authoritative account of a field inadequately handled by the average cytological laboratory. Joint fluids, on the other hand,

are not specifically dealt with, nor examples given of radiation and cytotoxic drug effects, for which guidance would have been welcomed.

These are small points and it is difficult to find fault with this excellent treatise, dealt with in a manner at once casual and yet precise, so characteristic of its senior author.

Their analysis of results with detection rates, quoted from 28 to 83% with an average of 62%, demonstrates a frankness which inspires confidence.

Like the first edition, it will become an essential item on every cytologist's library shelf.

O. A. N. HUSAR

Notices

ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL PATHOLOGISTS (IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE COMMITTEE FOR POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD)

The third annual haematology course will be held at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, from 13 to 17 April 1970. This course is designed for trainees preparing for the final examination in haematology of the Royal College of Pathologists.

College accommodation will be available from Sunday, 12 April, to Friday, 17 April, at a cost of £2 per day and 10% service charge. The registration fee is £1.

Requests for further details and applications should be sent to:—Dr. A. Sharp, Department of Haematology, The Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

BRITISH POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL FEDERATION (UNIVERSITY OF LONDON)

A series of evening lectures in pathology, suitable for candidates for the final MRCPPath examination, will be held from April to October 1970 (excluding August) on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 5.30 to 8.0 p.m. at the Institute of Child Health (Mondays and Wednesdays) and the Institute of Neurology (Fridays). In the main, speakers will be on the staff of the specialist hospitals of the Federation and the programme will cover a wide range of pathological topics including histopathology, microbiology, chemical pathology, and blood transfusion, and topics of general pathological interest such as cytogenetics.

Fees, which those attending may reclaim from their employing authorities, will be charged at the rate of £1 for two sessions, with reductions for those attending one complete section of the series. Further details, programmes and enrolment forms may be obtained from the Central Office of the British Postgraduate Medical Federation, 14 Millman Meads, London, WC1.