

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 cytodagnosis 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. HUSAN

## 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 30% service charge. The registration fee is £10.

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 MRCPATH 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 100 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 Mews, London, WC1.