

and of Adams, both of whom have recently published important monographs on vascular biochemistry.

Since Gould's last edition a British competitor has entered the field in Hudson's monumental two-volume 'Cardiovascular pathology' (reviewed in *J. clin Path.*, 1966, 19, 301) and comparisons are inevitable. In general terms it may be said that Hudson (a single-author production) gives a fuller description of classical cardiovascular pathology and reviews the literature more comprehensively, while the new Gould has fuller accounts of recent advances though its outlook is more parochial. It is superbly illustrated and produced and there is no doubt that the complete pathologist needs both these books on his shelves.

T. CRAWFORD

CHEMOTHERAPY OF CHRONIC BRONCHITIS AND ALLIED DISORDERS By J. Robert May. (Pp. x + 115. 35s.) London: The English Universities Press. 1968.

There is still much misunderstanding about the role of bacteria in chronic bronchitis, the interpretation of sputum examination, and the place of chemotherapy. Studies by Dr May and his colleagues have greatly contributed to a better understanding of these problems.

Dr May emphasizes the difficulty of interpreting findings from single samples of sputum owing to its non-homogeneous nature. Unless this is appreciated, the laboratory may mislead clinicians by reporting the presence and the antibiotic sensitivity of irrelevant organisms, even more than by failing to demonstrate significant ones. The uses and limitations of antibiotics are thoroughly described. There are short chapters on the bacteriology of other chest diseases, excluding tuberculosis, and on identification of serum precipitins against *H. influenzae*. The examination of sputum is described as performed in the author's laboratory, where Gram-stained films of sputum are not examined. However justifiable this omission may be in chronic bronchitis, many bacteriologists working in less specialized fields will prefer to examine all purulent sputums by microscopy and culture while bearing in mind the sampling errors in both procedures. But, as Dr May points out, once the bacteriologist is familiar with the problems surrounding sputum examination, details of methods

are less important than appreciation of their limitations.

This book, intended primarily for clinicians, contains much of value for clinical pathologists and is strongly recommended to anyone interested in chronic bronchitis.

W. A. GILLESPIE

MAN'S CONCERN WITH DEATH By Arnold Toynbee and others. (Pp. 280 45s.) London: Hodder and Stoughton Ltd. 1968.

This book arrives at a good moment. Its up-to-date quality has not been meretriciously achieved by omission of happenings before yesterday. For example, Dr A. K. Mant in an important chapter on today's recognition and definition of death (references up to 1967), gives a fascinating backward look to the publications since 1733, not forgetting two relevant quotations from Shakespeare. History is strongly represented among the eight authors, and the book thereby gains both validity and strength.

The other two medical practitioners have provided articles that are a credit to the spirit of the profession, the late Dr Simon Yudkin's on 'Death and the young', and Professor John Hinton's on 'The dying and the doctor'. The latter is so wise and sensitive that it humbles and yet gives hope of doing better when next in contact with those facing death. It would make a valuable chapter in every textbook on therapeutics.

The historical side is largely influenced by that Nestor, Arnold Toynbee, with his mellow note of rich maturity and still more than able to put things in a freshening way. There is much interesting and clear information on the religions of Europe and the East with their various attitudes to death and the hereafter, and amongst others, two chapters on modern objective study of thought-transference. Altogether a readable book and curiously harmonious despite the diversity of the contributors, held together apparently by one of the publishers who writes an introductory note.

As a doctor and not without experience of ineptitude in dealing with the dying and their relatives, I can say this book is worth possessing even if it had provided nothing more than John Hinton's fine perception.

A. C. LENDRUM

BOOKS RECEIVED

L'HYPERTENSION PORTALE By A. Parodi, C. Caulin, and J. Rautureau. (Pp. 142, illustrated. 35F.) Paris: J. B. Balliere et Fils. 1969.

HANDBUCH DER ALLGEMEIN PATHOLOGIE Band I. Prolegomena einer allgemeinen Pathologie. Edited by F. Büchner, E. Letterer, and F. Roulet, (Pp. x + 313, illustrated. DM 138,00) Berlin, Heidelberg, and New York: Springer-Verlag. 1969.