Fluorescent Protein Tracing 3rd ed. Edited by R. C. Nairn. (Pp. 503. 60s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1969.

Immunofluorescence has come a long way since the last edition of Professor Nairn's book appeared in 1964. Even then a short acquaintance with the method was still arousing in some of its practitioners suspicions about reliability and reproducibility that all too often reflected the poor quality or unsuitability of fluorochromes, conjugates, and microscopical equipment commercially supplied. Nairn's book has always given clear guidance on methods, and this edition no less than its predecessors is a comprehensive manual not only for those who still prefer to make and test their own reagents, but for those who want to grasp the principles underlying immunofluorescence and fluorescence microscopy.

In the meantime manufacturers have begun to pay a lot more attention to the needs of users, especially in routine diagnostic work, and there has been a marked improvement in the quality and specificity of immunofluorescent reagents, and a good deal of progress towards their standardization. As a result there has been an enormous expansion of the use of immunofluorescence in virology, bacteriology, protozoology, and immunopathology, and one of the most useful features of this new edition is its extensive coverage of progress in all these different fields of application. The text throughout has been revised and a useful and up-to-date chapter on tracing viruses and rickettsiae by Professor K. B. Fraser has been added. It is becoming increasingly difficult for diagnostic laboratories to provide an adequate service without using immunofluorescence; this edition of Nairn is a new encouragement for the most hesitant to practise a fascinating and informative technique.

E. J. HOLBOROW

Disorders of Voluntary Muscle 2nd ed. Edited by J. N. Walton. (Pp. xi + 942; 196 figures. £10.) London: J. & A. Churchill, Ltd. 1969.

Considerable advances have been made in our knowledge of the neuromuscular system since the first edition of this comprehensive, multiple-contributor book was published in 1964. As then, it is divided into sections on anatomy and physiology, pathology, clinical problems in muscle disease and electrodiagnosis, and is mainly concerned with primary diseases of muscle, but increased attention has been paid to disorders of innervation. Revision, rearrangement, and the addition of new chapters have increased the pages of text from 601 to 908. 'Ultrastructure

of the muscle cell' has been re-written by H. M. Price. 'Tissue culture and electron microscopy in muscle disease' now contains so much information that it has been divided into two parts, the first on 'Ultramicroscopic studies of diseased muscle' in which G. W. Pearce has been joined by P. Hodgson, and the second on 'Tissue culture in muscle disease' by K. F. A. Ross and P. Hodgson, which includes a section on technique. 'Experimental myopathies' is a new chapter by B. A. Kakulas. A greatly expanded and widely embracing 'Classification of the neuromuscular disorders' and a 'Note on the clinical examination of the voluntary muscles' form a new chapter in which Professor Walton has been joined by D. Gardner-Medwin. L. A. Liversedge has changed the title of his chapter from 'The spinal muscular atrophies' to 'The central neuronal muscular atrophies and other dysfunctions of the anterior horn cells'. Some omissions from the first edition are gathered together by J. B. Foster in 'Clinical features of some miscellaneous muscular disorders'. In 'Genetic aspects of neuromuscular disease' H. W. Kloeppel has been joined by A. E. H. Emery; in 'Clinical electromyography' D. D. Barwick has joined A. T. Richardson and in 'Potential changes in the normal and diseased muscle cell' A. J. McComas has joined R. J. Johns.

All the other chapters, by the original contributors, have been revised and brought up to date. The format remains the same: the list of contents at the beginning of each chapter is very helpful. It is easy for the reader to find his way to what he wants in this book, which is of a very high standard and a mine of information.

W. BLACKWOOD

Hypersensitivity Diseases of the Lungs due to Fungi and Organic Dusts By J. Pepys. Monographs in Allergy. (Pp. viii + 147; 47 figures. 78s.) Basel: S. Karger AG. 1969.

Clinical pathologists will find this easily readable monograph of great value in that it covers the clinical, serological, and histological aspects of the hypersensitivity lung diseases. Medical microbiologists and immunochemists will find a comprehensive account of the serological findings of diseases caused by aspergilli and *Candida* and also the serology of the Farmer's lung group of diseases. The antigens involved are described in detail, including information on their preparation. Morbid anatomical and histological appearances, however, are not given the same emphasis and in some instances are omitted or not described in detail.

The monograph is well produced, consisting of 135 well illustrated pages with over 250 references to the relevant literature up to and including 1968. The absence of a subject index is compensated for by a detailed list of contents.

R. M. F. SEAL

Computers in Medicine Edited by J. Rose. (Pp. 152; illustrated. 30s.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1969.

This book records the proceedings of a two-day symposium held at the Blackburn College of Technology and Design in February 1968. The topics covered range over a wide field from the generalities of the role of computers to specific applications such as the calculation of radiation dosimetry. The only paper of relevance to pathologists is that concerned with the handling of data in the biochemistry laboratory, but unfortunately in the copy sent to the reviewer one page of this part of the text was missing, being replaced by a duplicate of one of the figures. Despite the practical detail given by many of the speakers, all but one of the papers can be readily followed by the non-specialist.

Very little that was new appears to have been said at this symposium and despite the paucity of references much of the material, including illustrations, has been published before. This book will prove therefore to be of little use to those familiar with the subject, but it can be recommended to newcomers who are anxious to discover the practical relevance of the computer to medicine.

F. V. FLYNN

Scientific Aspects of Forensic Medicine

By C. J. Polson. (Pp. 144. 7s. 6d.) Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd. 1969.

Intended for the general reader this slim book will be of considerable interest to all those attracted to medico-legal matters, including police officers and surgeons, lawyers, and pathologists. It covers almost all aspects of forensic medicine, some necessarily quite superficially but all with great clarity, made possible by Professor Polson's considerable forensic experience and literary skill. Chapters on signs of death, asphyxia, and poisoning are particularly comprehensive and that on child cruelty is a beautifully balanced opinion.

Some case examples are anecdotal rather than scientific. An acknowledgement to colleagues for the latter could well have been included at the end in a general bibliography. These are minor criticisms of a paperback of outstanding value.

D. A. L. BOWEN