

lengthy article deals with the question, 'What are toxicologists?' This book will be of interest to all those concerned with drug therapy, with the diagnosis of adverse reactions to drugs, or with the experimental approach to drug toxicity.

A. E. CLAIREAUX

Forensic Medicine 6th ed. By K. Simpson. (Pp. viii + 361; 138 figures. 60s.) London: Edward Arnold. 1969.

Every medical student in England since the war must have read this classic little textbook. A new edition appears every three to five years, the last in 1964, and one of Professor Simpson's greatest achievements is to contain its growth so that today's 361 pages compares with 335 pages of the first edition in 1947. Re-reading the book after 20 years one is struck by its relaxed, if somewhat pop style, which makes for very easy reading. For such a small handbook it is remarkable how the author's enormous enthusiasm for his subject comes through in almost every line. The book is aimed at medical students and lawyers, and is therefore fairly simple and non-controversial, but every pathologist engaged in medico-legal work finds it useful at times.

Since the last edition the law relating to medicine, which has changed a good deal in the last few years, has been brought up to date. Newer topics such as the battered baby are included, and recent potentially toxic drugs receive attention.

A. C. HUNT

Cell and Tissue Culture 4th ed. By J. Paul. (Pp. xi + 430; 60 figures and 21 tables. 45s.) Edinburgh and London: E. and S. Livingstone. 1970.

The foundation of modern virology on tissue culture techniques, and its increasing use elsewhere around the fringes of clinical pathology, has revealed the need for a good practical manual on the subject. John Paul's book is the answer. The fourth edition is larger and contains an abundance of new and detailed advice which answers almost every practical question that may arise. It demonstrates above all that there is no particular magic or green fingers in growing cells but simply an unremitting attention to detail.

For the clinical pathologist it is a pity that not more is said about growing blood lymphocytes and that a standard widely used technique is not quoted. Also it may be suspected that the preference for

glycerol to DMSO as a freezing protective may be because the need to add DMSO at 0°-4°C is not emphasized. But these are minor points and should not deter the tissue grower from acquiring this essential book.

H. E. M. KAY

Autoimmunization and the Autoimmune Hemolytic Anaemias By B. Pirofsky. (Pp. xiii + 537. £9.) Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. 1969.

Although autoimmune haemolytic anaemia is not usually considered to be a common disorder, the author has studied 234 cases over an eight-year period in a population of approximately 2-3 million in the Pacific Northwest of the United States. This book is a personal account of his wide experience in the recognition and management of this disorder, together with a review of the theoretical aspects of autoimmunity and a detailed account of the serology of autoimmune haemolytic anaemia. The text includes 102 case histories selected to illustrate practical aspects of diagnosis and management, and these serve to remind the reader of the complexity of this group of disorders.

A surprising feature of the analysis of the case material is that only 18.2% of patients were considered to be suffering from idiopathic or primary autoimmune haemolytic anaemia, the remainder being classified as examples of secondary or symptomatic autoimmune haemolytic anaemia. The frequency of idiopathic cases is much less than those reported in other series, and suggests the use of different criteria in the classifications or selection in the referral of patients. As would be expected, neoplastic disorders of the reticulo-endothelial system are the largest subdivision of the secondary group, but how should one classify autoimmune haemolytic anaemia occurring in association with hepatic cirrhosis, rheumatoid arthritis, or ulcerative colitis? Dr. Pirofsky considers these associated diseases to be 'immunologically oriented' and classifies the anaemia as secondary or symptomatic. This broad clinical approach to autoimmune haemolytic anaemia is valuable since it encourages the clinician to search for associated diseases which, if found, support the author's thesis that an immune event involving the red cell is usually only one aspect of a more profound disturbance in the immunological mechanisms. Certainly if one is confronted with a patient with autoimmune haemolytic

anaemia and another disease, this book will indicate whether the association has been noted previously.

There is an interesting section on genetic predisposition, one family in particular including three siblings with autoimmune haemolytic anaemia. The chapter on treatment is up to date and well balanced, although it is of interest that splenectomy was performed in only nine of the author's 234 patients. This approach seems to be altogether too conservative, and the author concedes that many patients were sustained in partial remission by prolonged administration of high doses of corticosteroids and they would probably have benefited from splenectomy.

The book is well presented, easy to read, and free of typographical errors. Although expensive, it is warmly recommended to haematologists, serologists, and those particularly interested in immunological disorders.

W. R. PITNEY

Thrombosis Edited by S. Sherry, K. M. Brinkhous, E. Genton, and J. M. Stengle. (Pp. x + 762; illustrated. \$12.50.) Washington: National Academy of Sciences. 1969.

This volume is a collection of papers presented at a meeting of invited experts held in Washington in November 1967. The outstanding feature of the book is the quality of the editing of the contributions which is enhanced by the excellence of book production, particularly noticeable in the diagrams and photomicrographs.

The book follows the pattern of the meeting in being divided into six sections. The clinical spectrum of thrombus, the epidemiology, nature of a thrombus, pathogenesis, hypercoagulability, and therapy. Each of the 55 papers contains a review and bibliography in addition to the original material. It is useful to have these diverse papers together under the same cover, and for many workers this will mean a considerable saving in time and trouble searching the journals.

One major criticism must be, however, that the production of a report of a meeting two years after the event must inevitably mean that most of the original material has already been published elsewhere. A second criticism which will be appreciated by those who attended the meeting, is that, although there was much stimulating discussion following the papers, none of this has been included. Dr Simon Sevitt's useful comments on the inadequacy