

of the coagulation defect in the report of the Medical Research Council's trial of anticoagulants in acute myocardial infarction presented for the first time at this meeting are thus not recorded. Likewise, Professor Mitchell's outspoken comments on computerized data, which was one of the focal points of the session, are lost.

The wisdom of publication in full of papers presented at meetings is always questionable, but the editors and distinguished contributors to this volume have produced a publication which ranks as one of the best of its class.

L. POLLER

**Ultrastructure of Synovial Joints in Health and Disease** Edited by F. N. Ghadially and S. Roy. (Pp. v + 186; illustrated. £5). London: Butterworths and Co. Ltd. 1969.

This is an atlas for pathologists with a practical knowledge of the limitations of electron microscopy, and interested in academic aspects of joint disease. It is well produced and carefully annotated but must clearly remain of limited appeal to the practising clinical pathologist, both on account of its specialized nature and its price.

D. L. GARDNER

**Tumours of Bone** By W. Kark. (Pp. 156; illustrated. 40s.) Bristol: John Wright and Sons.

The subject of bone tumours is often regarded as complicated as well as unfamiliar. The present paperback volume is therefore to be welcomed as it gives a brief, but very dependable account of the subject in 156 pages. It will be much appreciated by the student, whether undergraduate or postgraduate, who wants a short summary of the subject for the purposes of an examination. It is, however, devoid of radiographic and histological illustrations which are usually a feature of books of this kind, and it will therefore not be much help to the pathologist who has a difficult case and who wishes to have practical guidance in diagnosis.

H. A. SISSONS

**Bone Tumours in Man and Animals** By L. N. Owen. (Pp. 201; 117 figures. 70s.) London: Butterworths and Co. Ltd. 1970.

This essay deals with the author's experience of bone tumours in domestic and laboratory animals using, as a basis for discussion and classification, the available

knowledge of the abundant systematized and well studied human tumours with which they are comparable. There are also sections on tumours induced by radiation and other methods. It is an introduction to the subject for the general reader with veterinary interests rather than a supplement to the well known major texts on bone tumours available for specialists. There is a compendious bibliography. The radiographs and clinical pictures of animal tumours are of high quality and likely to be unfamiliar to medical, as opposed to veterinary, pathologists.

A. LEVENE

**Progress in Proctology** By J. Hofenchter. (Pp. 247; illustrated. DM48-00, \$13-20.) Berlin, Heidelberg, and New York: Springer-Verlag.

This book is a record of the proceedings of the 3rd International Congress of Hedrologicum Conolegium, an unnecessarily obscure neologism for proctology.

It contains little of interest to pathologists, being mainly concerned with the surgical treatment of diseases of the colon and rectum. However, there is one chapter on the classification of fistula in ano which throws light on a subject which is largely ignored in textbooks of pathology. The section on the relationship of intestinal polyps and cancer adds nothing new to a controversy which seems endlessly bogged down in a confused nomenclature and misinterpretation of histological appearances. It is doubtful whether a book of this kind is helpful, even to surgeons, because the quality of the papers varies from the very good to the very bad and many of them are little more than summaries of existing knowledge laced with personal opinions of a kind which can hardly be described as progressive. The speciality of proctology has a growing scientific basis to which this volume does not make any significant contribution.

B. C. MORSON

**Mutation as Cellular Process** Edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme and M. O'Connor. A Ciba Foundation Symposium. (Pp. xi + 244; illustrated. 60s.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1969.

This symposium is an exchange of information and discussion between geneticists, chemists, cell biologists, and others who are engaged in the study of mutation. The theme was to examine in what way cellular metabolism and cellular events

are involved in mutation. The hope was to see if a link could be forged between the simplicity of the chemists' view of the primary molecular events of gene mutation and the biologists' ideas on the complexity of the cellular events leading to their expression and detection.

Analysis of mutation in a variety of microorganisms induced by chemicals and ultraviolet irradiation and their repair mechanism is described; the biochemical aspects of the problem are discussed in depth. It is the high precision of microbiological genetics, using enzyme markers, that has contributed greatly to the rapid advances in molecular biology. On the other hand, progress is far slower in the understanding of mutation in higher organisms.

This book is highly specialised, using technical language that may be difficult to follow by those not engaged in this type of research. The expert will find many interesting articles in the book, but the general reader will, no doubt, find it heavy going. It is unfortunate that the Chairman's opening remarks, which are a clear-cut, easily understood statement, could not have been followed by a masterly summary. The value of the books of this type would be greatly enhanced if they contained a chapter where an attempt is made to draw attention to the more important facts and opinions that have emerged during the conference.

EDWARD H. COOPER

**Advances in Microcirculation** Edited by H. Harders. Vol. 1 (Pp. iv + 160; 89 figures. 98s.) Basel: S. Karger AG. 1968. Vol. 2 (Pp. iv + 103; 59 figures. 65s.) 1969.

Since the whole circulation as well as the oxygenation and nutrition of virtually all tissues and organs depends on the conditions of flow through the various minute vessels, the microcirculation had always attracted the attention of many research workers though not previously as a special subject. The recent tendency to separate its study from other specialities has led to the danger of isolation, which is a great pity. With the passage of time the novelty no doubt will wear off; the subject should then revert to its proper place in physiology and pathology, bequeathing a number of useful techniques especially the development of improved cinemicrophotography whereby flow changes at the capillary level can be visualized *in situ*. The volumes reviewed were preceded by others recording the Proceedings of the