

The introductory chapters on fibrinogen and the plasminogen-plasmin system and on physiology are well presented, but the chapter on 'Hyperfibrinolysis and fibrinolytic haemorrhages' makes heavy weather in attempting to clarify something that cannot yet be so disciplined. There are 30 pages on fibrinolytic therapy and here failure to extract the good from the bad is a particular disadvantage—the list of lytic agents and activators is certainly comprehensive.

This book is intended as a source of specialized information; as such it can be thoroughly recommended and research laboratories should apply for a copy while the generous offer by the publishers (a firm of Finnish pharmaceutical manufacturers) remains open. But anyone wishing to learn about fibrinolysis from scratch must seek elsewhere.

J. L. STAFFORD

A Short Synopsis of Human Protozoology and Helminthology 2nd ed. By L. R. S. Macfarlane. (Pp. 259; 61 figures. £2.50) Edinburgh and London: E. and S. Livingstone. 1970.

The second edition of this useful volume has been called for and has been produced in workman-like style. The book grew out of notes used for teaching the Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and the abbreviated style of writing is accounted for by this, but it is still acceptable in what is primarily a laboratory guide and reference manual.

The material is covered fully and is up to date; new aspects of parasitology are dealt with in considerable detail. An innovation in this edition is the introduction of brief references to drugs used in the treatment of parasitic infections. The wisdom of this step is open to doubt. Many would argue that instructions regarding therapy should either be in full or omitted altogether, for therapy unless properly carried out, can be against the patient's interests, may confuse the diagnosis, and make appropriate management in the future difficult or impossible.

As a guide to human protozoology and helminthology the book can be thoroughly recommended.

A. W. WOODRUFF

Clinical Acid-base Physiology By P. Kildberg. (Pp. 228; 61 figures. £4.37½) Copenhagen and Baltimore: Scandinavian University Books. 1968.

This work is a monograph which sets out the results of the author's studies in the field of acid-base disorders in childhood, especially in premature infants; in addition to this the author attempts to give a comprehensive survey of the achievements of clinical acid-base physiology.

The whole field of these disturbances has been the subject of many studies in the paediatric field. There can be no questioning of the great need for a clear exposition of the underlying facts and principles set out with a simplification of terminology and an avoidance of abbreviations. Unfortunately, the present monograph observes neither of these prescriptions.

It may be a matter of regret that the present work can only be called confusing: it is often difficult to discern any guiding thread. For anybody already specialized in the field the author's results are obviously of interest and importance and the review of the literature, up to 1967, is very complete. Apart from these two facets the book is not to be recommended.

A. JORDAN

Clostridia of Wound Infection By A. T. Willis. (Pp. ix + 470; illustrated. £8.) London: Butterworths and Co. Ltd. 1969.

The author's aim, in a book addressed primarily to clinical bacteriologists, is to provide an up-to-date review of the clostridia of wound infection. An introductory chapter, mainly devoted to the discussion of nomenclature and classification, is followed by three long chapters on the main gas gangrene pathogens and four shorter ones on more doubtful pathogens or those likely to confuse the uninitiated. In all these accounts the author concentrates on the cultural characters and toxicology of the clostridia and more or less leaves metabolism to the biochemists. A chapter on anaerobic infections rather surprisingly includes a full account of *Clostridium welchii* food poisoning, but concentrates on the clinical pathology and management of gas gangrene and the less common clostridial infections. A final chapter is devoted to the clinical and laboratory aspects of tetanus.

The reference lists are remarkably comprehensive and take up virtually one third of the whole book. An unusual feature is the inclusion of long excerpts from papers in the literature. Many of these are apt original descriptions of interesting events or phenomena. Not

every clinical bacteriologist, perhaps, would be very interested in, say, a half page verbatim account of the local lesion produced by *Cl. histolyticum* in the rabbit.

The energetic author mentions that the book was prepared during a somewhat nomadic period of his life. This may explain a fair number of minor lapses in proof correcting, and writing of uneven quality that is occasionally hard to understand. A book that contains such a wealth of material from an acknowledged expert will certainly be used by clinical bacteriologists and deserves a better final polish in these matters of detail and will doubtless be tidied up in another edition.

B. MOORE

Gynecological Vital Cytology By P. Stolte. (Pp. 81; 45 figures. \$16.00; DM58.00.) Berlin, Heidelberg, and New York: Springer-Verlag. 1970.

This is a beautifully produced monograph, describing the use of phase-contrast and interference-contrast microscopy in the examination of unstained and unfixed gynaecological secretions, aspirations, and urine.

There are 15 pages of instructions, well and clearly translated into good English from the original German edition. The remaining 66 pages are fine black and white photographs of what can be seen.

The work is not intended for the practising pathologist, and the authors admit that they do not use the technique for searching smears for malignancy. It can, however, be recommended as a primer for anyone interested in glimpsing the vital dynamic world for which pressure of work rarely affords us enough time.

M. LEVENE

Biochemical Disorders in Human Disease 3rd ed. By R. H. S. Thompson and I. D. P. Wootton. (Pp. 875; 174 figures. £8.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1970.

The heavy demands of clinicians on the laboratory services have led to an explosion of biochemical knowledge and have cast a heavy responsibility on editors and authors for revising at frequent intervals standard texts of such importance as biochemical disorders in human disease. To avoid extensive growth by accretion the editors have to strike a balance between