mental studies for a particular concept, and in the other the published case for and against a particular view is contrasted. Here a circumstantial case is built up by making a one-sided selection from existing literature, without new experimental evidence, extrapolating far beyond the purposes for which most of the experiments were done. An apologia in the epilogue shows that the author is himself rather worried about the propriety of this, and the view that theoretical science is acceptable only if it has demonstrable mathematical integrity, as in theoretical physics, is disingenuously deprecated by his description of himself as 'wholly free of mathematical sophistication' (p. 129). We all have our patterns of thought, on which our work is based, and I think that biologists should publish only those which they have tested by experiment.

The book is therefore worrying in principle. It is also imperfect in practice. Nearly half the book is an account of specific immune responses, not needed by an immunologically informed reader, and misleading to others who may well be enticed by the broad implications claimed for the book (eg, the terms 'antibody' and 'immunoglobulin' are not 'essentially synonymous' (p. 17) and it is neither 'axiomatic' nor correct to say that 'in health there is no immunological reaction against normal body components' (p. 46). Phylogeny of the immune response is outlined, apparently irrelevantly, and distorted accounts of various immunological phenomena, as, for instance, immunodeficiency (pp. 201 and 205), are cited in favour of views which they do not substantiate.

Finally, the concept of immunological surveillance is considered in the last 75 pages in three contexts, all so important for medicine that they may well entice a number of readers not equipped to be adequately critical—hence the justification for an adverse review in a general journal. The case in cancer is adequately but uncritically presented—this is now discussed as a likely, but not established phenomenon, in undergraduate teaching. Diseases, uncritically and often insecurely classed as autoimmune, are then considered in this light, and, finally, a totally unsubstantiated claim is made for an immunopathological theory of aging. The style is wordy and repetitive, but there is a reference list of broad and exciting range. As a starting point in one of these fields an informed worker might achieve some stimulus—if only an irresistible urge

to disprove some of the more unlikely assertions. But this book is educationally dangerous for the uninitiated, because it is misleading in fact and conducive of untidy and undisciplined thought.

J. F. SOOTHILL

Progress in Allergy Vol. 14. Edited by P. Kallos and B. H. Waksman. (Pp. xvi + 340; 35 figures and 18 tables, £7.10.) Basel: S. Karger AG. 1970.

The latest volume in what must be one of the oldest series of immunological reviews has six sections which can, of course, only cover some of the many recent advances in the subject. They are, however, critical and thoughtful reviews rather than annotated lists of recent publications.

The momentum given to the study of antibody structure by Porter's splitting of the gamma globulin molecule continues and so, unfortunately, does the apparent heterogeneity of antibodies. The chapters on myeloma proteins as analogues of antibodies and on synthesis and assembly of immunoglobulins both manage to avoid entanglement in the minutiae of chain amino acid sequences. They give current views on how immunoglobulins are put together and what they look like, although detailed knowledge of a specific combining site is still to come.

After a period of relative neglect macrophages are again closely though controversially related to antibody synthesis. The unresolved problems are well discussed. The need for cell cooperation is taken further in the chapter on immunocytes which discusses the functional diversity of lymphocytes. This is followed appropriately by a review of the biological effects of antilymphocyte serum.

Perhaps to remind readers that immune phenomena are usually responses to antigens, the final chapter is devoted to that most unpromising of allergens, house dust. As might be expected, house dust proves to be as heterogeneous as some of the factors already described.

This is a useful volume in a valuable series but it is aimed at the specialist. The general reader might learn a lot but he would have to work hard.

A. A. GLYNN

Clinical Laboratory A Handbook of Clinical Diagnosis by Laboratory Examinations. Edited by A. W. Karakashoff and H. I. Pandov. (Pp. 990; 536 illustrations,

40 in colour. Approx. £3 (official rate) £1.75 (tourist rate)). Sofia: Medicina Fizkultura Publishing House. 1970.

This book is written in Bulgarian so could only be of very limited interest to this country. Nevertheless, British clinical pathologists should be made aware that first-class work is being done in Bulgaria. The book is well produced, and appears to be comprehensive and reasonably up to date in methodology and interpretations in chemical pathology, haematology and clinical microscopy. About one third of its many references are to Eastern European publications.

D. N. BARON

Alzheimer's Disease and Related Conditions A Ciba Foundation Symposium Edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme and M. O'Connor. (Pp. xi + 316; 95 figures £4.) London: J. and A. Churchill Ltd. 1970.

Yet again one is not disappointed by the published results of one of the Ciba Foundation's excellent symposia. On this occasion, as on so many previous ones, a group of people with widely different methods of approach to a difficult problem have presented their views. These have been recorded, not only in the form of papers, but of extensive and fairly uninhibited discussions and the results are excellent. Here is a mixture of old and new knowledge gained from very various techniques ranging from the silver methods to electron microscopy. It is sad that in the 54 years since the condition was described by Alzheimer so little real understanding of the cause of the disease has been obtained, but much of what is known is to be found in this book. It will be most valuable to those psychiatrists, neurologists, and neuropathologists who want to be kept abreast of current work on this subject.

PETER DANIEL

The Differential Diagnosis of Fibroblastic Disorders By D. H. Mackenzie. (Pp. ix + 167. £2.75.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications.

This monograph fills a very real gap in surgical pathological literature and should be on the shelf of all pathologists and therapists dealing with disorders of the soft tissues. It fulfils the objects set out in the preface and the author is being modest.