Exfoliative Cytopathology By Zuher M. Naib. (Pp. x + 398; 153 illustrations. £6.25.) London: J. and A. Churchill Ltd. 1970.

This book, intended for the medical technician and graduate student, is an excellent one of its kind. Its outstanding characteristic is lucidity. It leads the student from basic cellular morphology, through normal cytology, to concise and comprehensive cytopathology. There is a small section on cytogenetics and on the cytology of the eye, not found in most other textbooks. As might be expected from the author of several publications on viral infections, the descriptions of cellular changes associated with the common viral diseases are particularly good.

The absence of colour photomicrographs is a matter of regret, but this is to some extent compensated by excellent line drawings.

CHANDRA GRUBB

Laboratory Identification of Pathogenic Fungi Simplified 3rd edition. By Elizabeth L. Hazen, Morris A. Gordon, and Frank Curtis Reed. (Pp. xx + 253; illustrated. \$18.25.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

This is an account of laboratory methods covering pathogenic fungi, actinomycetes, and contaminants. Each section gives a description of the organisms, their microscopical and cultural characteristics, and black and white illustrations. There follow a short and sceptical section on serology, formulae for stains and media, an illustrated glossary, and a good bibliography.

The colour plates, illustrating 36 different species, are disappointing. They are too small and badly defined, and the colour is quite unrealistic. They are useless and merely increase the price of the book.

This is a book for the specialist to have on his shelves. However, there is a well known atlas which covers the same ground rather better, has a general index and a section on therapy, neither of which is to be found in this book, and costs less.

H. I. WINNER

Modern Trends in Virology—2 Edited by R. B. Heath and A. P. Waterson. (Pp. vii + 320; illustrated. £5.30.) London: Butterworth. 1970.

The first volume in this series of 'Modern trends in virology' was published only

three years ago. Such has been the progress in virology and its impact on medicine that the same two editors have now brought out a second volume. They are both to be congratulated on their choice of subjects, all of which have aroused great interest in recent years and which have a close application to clinical medicine. In the opening chapter Sir Christopher Andrewes reviews what is new about taxonomy and nomenclature of viruses of vertebrates—a subject dear to his heart and one which he explains so lucidly that virologists and non-virologists alike can understand not only the need for classification and nomenclature, but the basis for some of the names given to these agents, peculiar though they may be at first sight. Two other chapters of general interest include an up-to-date account of rapid diagnostic techniques in clinical virology and an account of the immunoglobulins in virus disease. Chapters on specific diseases include important topics such as herpes simplex, rubella, the oncogenic adenoviruses, and the TRIC agents. The chapter on the 'Marburg' agent is a salutary warning of dangers, unknown and unexpected, that have to be confronted in experimental work if progress is to be made. The last three chapters are concerned with prophylaxis. The two chapters devoted to the interferons and immunoglobulins serve to illustrate some of the difficulties and limitations in this field whereas the chapter on vaccination, by the very choice of the subject, vaccination against mumps, indirectly points to the extraordinary progress made in recent years in prevention of virus diseases by active immunization procedures.

This volume is as well produced as its predecessor. The illustrations are excellent and the bibliographies comprehensive and up to date. This book is a valuable addition to the series and is strongly recommended to clinicians and pathologists.

J. A. DUDGEON

Virus Diseases of the Liver By A. J. Zuckerman, with contributions by Patricia E. Taylor and Susan F. Sullman. (Pp. 158; 20 illustrations. £4.30.) London: Butterworth. 1970.

The aim of this small volume is to bring together the latest information on virus infections causing diseases of the liver. It has come at a most opportune time with

rapid advances being made in the study of virus diseases generally and in particular on cytomegalic inclusion disease and viral hepatitis. There are altogether 13 chapters dealing with subjects such as tissue culture of the liver, the epidemiology of infectious and serum hepatitis, and the pathology of viral hepatitis. Separate chapters are devoted to the role of adenovirus, rubella, herpes virus, and the 'Marburg' agent. The emphasis is on infectious and serum hepatitis and, as the author points out, exciting new developments can be expected with the discovery of the association between the Australia antigen and serum hepatitis. The subject matter is well set out, factual and informative. The illustrations, of which there are many including colour plates and electronmicrographs, are outstanding. This book is strongly recommended for virologists and to all those concerned in general medicine and pathology.

J. A. DUDGEON

Hepatic Failure By Henry Brown. (Pp. ix + 137; illustrated. \$10.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

As stated in the foreword to this book monographs in the Living Chemistry Series are designed to advance the new knowledge of chemical medicine in the cause of clinical practice. The contents cover a large field of metabolism with emphasis on protein metabolism and also urea cycle enzymes and their relationship to blood glucose and blood ammonia. Therapy is covered in chapters on ascites, transplantation, and the treatment of hepatic failure.

A detailed summary of past and present methods of treatment is presented in the last chapter. However, unfortunately the reader does not emerge with a clear idea of what the author's preferences are. Exchange transfusion is recommended, although it is not as yet of proven value, and the complication risk (especially of sepsis) is high in the hands of the occasional practitioner. Likewise, corticosteroids, although frequently used, are of unproven efficacy in hepatic coma and not without risk.

Finally, although concise, the publication contains a large volume of experimental detail which would deter the majority of non-expert readers from persisting with this monograph.

G. WHELAN