

Office Urinary Tract Bacteriology By Donald Motzkin. (Pp. xii + 117; 54 illustrations. \$10.50) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

This small book (117 pages), which has an extensive bibliography, aims at reducing urinary tract bacteriology from a so-called complex clinical laboratory procedure to a simple office tool. In the first part, which deals with the collection of specimens, there is much good sense but, after a brief account of quantitative urine culture, it is very surprising to read 'Catheterized specimens should be examined from any female patient who has a positive midstream urinalysis or mid-stream urine culture in order to verify that the abnormal elements are coming from the urinary tract and not the urethra or genital tract'.

The remainder of the book leaves much to be desired and in so doing emphasizes the need for clinical bacteriology to be under the direction of well trained medically qualified bacteriologists.

C. E. D. TAYLOR

Methods in Toxicology Edited by G. E. Paget (Pp. x + 390. £4.50.) Oxford and Edinburgh: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1970.

The reviewer undertook his task with a certain amount of reluctance, but very soon was grateful to the editor of the *Journal* for bringing the volume to his notice. The title does not really indicate just what the book is about. Thirteen experts who have practical knowledge of their subjects have written an account of toxicity tests in animals. They deal with the design and interpretation of such tests, the provision of laboratory animals, the measurement of acute and chronic toxicity, the detection of teratogenic actions, methods of detecting drug interaction, safety testing of biological products, biochemical and haematological studies, and various other aspects of investigations related particularly to the testing of drugs and chemicals in animals. This book does not deal with toxicology tests in the human. The medical graduate or student would benefit from dipping into this volume, particularly for its educational value in relation to work undertaken by the drug industry and by departments of pharmacology.

RONALD H. GIRDWOOD

Poison Detection in Human Organs By Alan Curry. (Pp. xxiii + 280; 11 figures; 25 tables. \$13.50). Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1969.

This book covers the field indicated by its title and, very properly, includes blood and urine amongst human 'organs'. Poisons can be inorganic or organic but have to be detected in all cases in the presence of organic material and many techniques are required.

This book seeks to cover the whole field and this field is a wide one. The author is a forensic toxicologist of very considerable experience and the book clearly reflects his approach to the different problems that confront him, and this means that in some cases no mention is made of newer techniques which could be simpler and more helpful (eg, atomic absorption in relation to magnesium). The book is divided into two parts: the first is a systematic consideration of the obtaining of samples and of the different procedures; the second considers the different poisons in alphabetical order. Inevitably the two parts overlap appreciably and the book would be improved by the inclusion of many more references in the second part to matters discussed in the first part. In spite of these criticisms the book has many excellencies and is to be recommended: any laboratory serving a medium-sized or large hospital must have a copy. The book is well produced.

ARTHUR JORDAN

Trichinosis in Man and Animals Edited by S. E. Gould. (Pp. xiv + 540; illustrated. \$44.50). Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

This beautiful produced book stands as a splendid memorial to S. E. Gould who died last year so soon after its publication. In 1945 Gould wrote the first edition of this book entirely on his own whereas this volume has 24 co-authors. Naturally the book suffers to some extent from this and there is a considerable amount of repeated information in the different chapters. However, this does have the advantage that each chapter can be read in isolation. Nearly half the book is devoted to chapters on trichinellosis in different geographical areas and many of these would have been thought free of the disease in 1945. There are excellent chapters dealing with different methods of diagnosing the

disease. Although one could criticize certain of the chapters this is hardly surprising in a book with so many authors with quite different approaches to the task in hand. One can only hope that even with the high price this book will find its way into many libraries.

D. A. DENHAM

Dermatophytes: Their Recognition and Identification By Gerbert Rebell and David Taplin. (Pp. vi + 124; illustrated. \$4.95.) Miami, Florida: University of Miami Press. 1970.

A revised edition of this well known manual takes full account of the advances in this subject. After a general introduction, the various species of dermatophytes are concisely described and illustrated by line drawings. There is a comprehensive key for the identification of species and a section on clinical and cultural methods, a glossary, and index of synonyms. The best feature of the book are the colour plates of 66 different cultures. These are so good that they can be used almost without further aid as a key for identifying species grown on standard media.

This is a most useful book for the specialist who handles numerous dermatophyte samples. It is not necessary for ordinary clinical practice in this country, but would be found of the greatest value by pathologists handling specimens from busy dermatological departments, especially those concerned with the variety of species one receives from overseas patients.

H. I. WINNER

An Introduction to Blood Group Serology 4th ed. By Kathleen Boorman and Barbara E. Dodd. (Pp. xii + 464; illustrated. £4.) London: J. and A. Churchill Ltd. 1970.

The day is surely approaching when the authors must shorten the title of this book omitting the words 'An introduction to. . .'. Anyone taking up the subject of blood group serology for the first time may be deterred by the very comprehensive pathway of secretor status depicted on the inside back cover, and there is no doubt that the book now provides sufficient detail for advanced students. The authors themselves recognize this fact by deciding to publish a separate book entitled 'Basic essentials of blood group theory and practice'.