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 midstream 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'.

Those who are familiar with the previous edition will welcome the improvement both in content and presentation of this, the fourth edition. There are 90 extra pages containing up-to-date information on the newer blood group discoveries and recently established reclassifications within such systems as Kell and P. Expanding knowledge of serum allotypes now justifies a chapter of its own, and another new chapter is devoted to important but rare blood group systems. Terminology has been brought up to date where appropriate and this is particularly evident in the valuable new appendix dealing with the separation of serum immunoglobulins. The improved presentation, with numerous extra tables and schematic diagrams, bears witness to the fact that this book is written by a team of practising serologists who know what we want at our fingertips for ready reference. For the convenience of the reader there is now a list of plates and the techniques have been sensibly recoded to indicate the chapter appropriate to their use. It is rather strange that we are still denied a section on complement. Perhaps the authors can be persuaded to give us the benefit of their experience in this subject in the next edition.

Established workers tend to have their favourite reference books, and those who have adopted 'Boorman and Dodd' will have purchased their latest edition before this review appears. For others who, perhaps, judged the book by its first edition, it would be well worth their studying this vastly improved volume.

W. J. JENKINS

Hypertrophic Obstructive Cardiomyopathy. Ciba Foundation Study Group No 37. Edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme and Maeve O'Connor. (Pp. ix + 220; illustrated. £1·75). London: J. & A. Churchill. 1971.

In 1958 Professor Donald Teare described the pathological characteristics of a condition for which he introduced the name 'asymmetrical hypertrophy of the heart'. Prior to that date the condition had been known vaguely to pathologists often being described as rhabdomyoma of the myocardium. Since Professor Teare's paper a great development of knowledge of the clinical and pathological features of this condition has accrued and this is witnessed by the fact that the present volume records the proceedings of the second study group devoted to the subject sponsored by the Ciba Foundation. The fashionable name has changed to hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy but many other names are used by the different authors who contribute to this volume, many preferring the designation idiopathic hypertrophic subaortic stenosis. By whichever name one prefers to call it, one will find in this volume the most up-to-date accounts of recent work on the pathology, pathophysiology, clinical features, and treatment. Most of the contributions are short and readable and pathologists should not miss the opportunity of being brought up to date in a condition which frequently presents first to the pathologist in the form of sudden death, though increasingly it is becoming a challenging problem when it presents to the cardiologist as an obscure disturbance of left ventricular function.

From the pathologist's point of view the most interesting contributions will be those of E. G. J. Olsen on morbid anatomy and of Susan Van Noorden and A. G. E. Pearse on histochemistry and electron microscopy.

T. CRAWFORD

Sixth National Cancer Conference Proceedings Sponsored by the American Cancer Society Inc., and the National Cancer Institute, September 1968. (Pp. xiv + 891; illustrated. £6.) Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company; Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1970.

Amidst the plethora of publications on recent work in cancer research it is often difficult to select the most readable and relevant. But for those concerned mainly with clinical problems the publication of the 6th American National Cancer Conference Proceedings can be recommended. The meeting was divided into 15 panels dealing with particular tumour groups, eg, skeletal or soft part tumours, and including all aspects of diagnosis and the various modes of therapy. The presentations are mostly of a high standard and will remain valuable for reference. However, since the conference was held in September 1968 some of the sections, eg those on lymphomas and leukaemias, are already somewhat out of date.

H. E. M. KAY

Recent Advances in Endocrinology. 8th ed. Edited by V. H. T. James. (Pp. ix + 334; 50 illustrations. £4·00). London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1968.

Inevitably in a book that has numerous contributors the quality of the contributions varies enormously. The objective of each author ought to be (in a volume of this title) to give an account of recent work with enough repetition of known work to set the new matter in perspective, the whole being produced in such a way as to maintain the interest of the reader. It must be remembered that the reader of a book like this is a learner seeking to supplement what he has gleaned from the standard textbooks with knowledge of recent advances in the field. Unfortunately some of the contributors tend to give a comprehensive account of their subject including much that has been well known for years; others, and this is much more reprehensible, quote isolated observations without any background against which to set the information, and this results in a series of disjointed statements of little interest to the learner-reader. Both these faults are apparent in parts of the present volume but some contributors are enjoyably free from both faults and the overall effect that the editor has managed to achieve is high. Especially pleasant to read is the chapter 'The cancer cell as an endocrine organ' by E. J. Ross. Most clinical pathologists will be better practitioners of the specialty for having read this book.

ARTHUR JORDAN

Clinical Analysis by Thin-Layer Chromatography Techniques By Ronald M. Scott. (Pp. xi + 227; 49 figures; 38 tables. £7·50). Ann Arbor: Humphrey Science Publishers Inc. 1969.

This is a most excellent account of the various techniques of thin-layer chromatography. It describes the application to a variety of compounds of clinical importance; the details given would permit any laboratory to commence operations immediately. The references are extensive without being excessive and it is a pleasure to note that the author, in contrast to some of his transatlantic colleagues, has read widely in the French, German, and British literature as well as in the American. It is recommended for any laboratory large or small.

ARTHUR JORDAN