

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