treated admirably immunologists will be surprised to find no mention of clonal selection, the generation of immune diversity, the nature of the T cell receptor, or immunoglobulin structure and function. The other serious omission is the absence of any discussion of abnormalities of the lymphoid tissues including lymphoproliferative disorders. Despite these omissions, and the inadequate index, the book does provide an extensive review, with an excellent bibliography, of the subjects described under its chapter headings. Its length and cost will, however, discourage most research workers.

GERALD JONES

Adrenal Steroids and Disease 2nd edition By C. L. Cope. (Pp. xi + 883; illustrated. £10·00). London: Pitman Medical Publishing. 1972.

After an interval of seven years we have the second edition of this remarkable book; remarkable because, covering as it does a wide multidisciplinary field in a subject in which knowledge is advancing at a very rapid pace, it is the work of one author. The immensity of the author's task is exemplified by the mention in the preface that data from over a thousand recent references, chosen from many more, have been incorporated in the text and it is noteworthy, and almost certainly exceptional, that every reference has been checked and read at source by the author personally.

The whole work is scholarly and there is a complete absence of the sort of thing one gets all too often in extensive reviews—a statement, usually uncritical nad not carefully thought out, and often in direct contradiction to an earlier or later statement, followed by a string of references which all too obviously the author has never read.

The book sets out to help the practising physician to understand the scientific—largely biochemical—background to disease states involving the numerous adrenal steroid hormones. In this it is remarkably successful. The style is clear, and of course uniform, and in controversial questions the evidence in support of the various views is carefully laid out and critically appraised. There are 38 chapters which adequately cover the subject, though it will be obvious from the purpose of the book that purely clinical aspects are not dealt with in the same depth as are those with a more fundamental background of principle.

It is a book which is to be highly recommended as reading matter to all those with an interest in endocrinology and it is an important and authoritative reference book for all who become concerned with a problem which might involve the adrenal steroids.

G. A. SMART

Clinical Toxicology By Clifford H. Thienes and Thomas J. Haley. 5th edition. (Pp. x + 459; 22 figures; 87 tables. £8·30). Philadelphia: Lea and Febiger. London: Henry Kimpton. 1972.

This established American textbook on toxicology has now reached its fifth edition and is a standard work on both sides of the Atlantic. One welcomes the section on differential diagnosis, and many of the analytical procedures have been changed from those in previous editions to keep abreast with the numerous advances in forensic science and technology. In addition the index has been revised and is now a considerable improvement over that in previous editions.

All pathologists working on medico-legal cases should possess this book, although there are few British references.

J. M. CAMERON

The Macrophage By B. Vernon-Roberts. (Pp. viii + 242; 47 figures. £6·40). London and New York: Cambridge University Press. 1972.

Until quite recently the macrophage seemed to be a most uninteresting cell, just a water snail in the body's aquarium, a scavenger concerned with little more than garbage collection. But all that has changed of late. Dr Vernon-Roberts effectively describes the renaissance of this hitherto neglected cell in this pleasing monograph. Published as the second in a new series of books on biological structure and function it nicely details both these aspects of the macrophage and justly emphasizes the ascendancy of this cell in modern immunology. Inevitably with such a book, published at such a time, several sections are out of date by at least two years. Two years is a long time in the current immunological boom. As a consequence the chapters on the role of macrophages in immunity are too tentative and incomplete and would need drastic updating to satisfy immunologists. This is, of course, an unavoidable result of writing any monograph. Modern biological research, like the motor car, moves rapidly and has its own built-in obsolescence.

This book, as well as providing a clear general exposition of the morphology and myriad functions of the macrophage, integrates fundamental biology with pathology and describes the role of macrophages in a variety of disease states. This is not a book for the super-specialist but clinicians, pathologists, and anyone at all interested in physiopathology at the cellular level will find much to ingest and enjoy in reading it. Several larger and more authoritative books on the macrophage have been published recently but they are mostly concerned with the minutiae of research and generally lack the readability and perspective which Dr Vernon-Roberts brings to his subject. With 23 pages of references, good illustrations, and a fund of information this well produced monograph is almost worth buying. Unfortunately the cost, as usual with such specialized books, is excessive.

GRAHAM CURRIE

Clinical Immunology. Report of a WHO Scientific Group. World Health Organization Technical Report Series 1972, No. 496. (Pp. 50. 40p. Annual subscription £5·00. Obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office.) Invaluable for those having to draft memoranda on the subject.

H. E. M. KAY