£2·60.) London: William Heinemann Medical Books. 1971.

This is an account of a workshop meeting organized by the Marie Curie Memorial Foundation in May 1970 at the University of Surrey.

Four papers are concerned with steroids and human breast cancer. They include a clinical appraisal of empirical steroid therapy, studies of *in vivo* and *in vitro* uptake of oestrogens by tumours, and steroid metabolism in breast cancer patients.

Are oestrogens carcinogenic? A useful review of this controversial field concludes that in man the evidence is still inconclusive. The role of steroids in cancers other than breast also gets a welcome airing, and, all in all, this well produced volume succeeds in its stated aim of spanning the boundary between clinical and scientific disciplines.

C. B. CAMERON

Renal Infection and Renal Scarring Proceedings of an International Symposium on Pyelonephritis, Vesico-Ureteric Reflux and Renal Papillary Necrosis held at Royal Melbourne Hospital, March 1970. Edited by P. Kincaid-Smith and K. F. Fairley. (Pp. 439; illustrated. $A24.74.) Melbourne, Australia: Mercedes Publishing Services; edition sponsored by Beecham Research Laboratories. 1971.

This is an account of a good meeting attended by many people of merit in the field. The topics included bacteriuria and pyuria, the site of infection, treatment, chronic pyelonephritis, vesico-ureteric reflux, and renal papillary necrosis. One of the biggest single advances in this subject has been the simple method described by Fairley to identify the site of the infection. It is therefore a pleasure to read about his use of his technique. Fairley and his group also point out a very interesting anomaly in that they find in common with most workers that intermittent bacteriuria with or without clinical evidence of infection is almost never associated with deterioration of renal function but that sterile pyuria associated with continuing evidence of renal infection is associated with a relatively rapid onset of renal failure. Gower describes some interesting observations on plasma antibactericidal activity in patients with upper urinary infection. And Asscher develops his fascinating observation that the mechanism for impaired growth and renal scarring in pyelonephritis of the growing rat are not the same. The section on treatment is not so interesting, except that once more it emerges that follow up of patients with urinary infections is far more important than the particular antibiotic that is used. The high rate of side effects with ampicillin is again mentioned. And Kunin gives a masterly summary of his work on the urinary recovery of nitrofurantoin in relation to glomerular filtration rate. The section on vesico-ureteric reflux is particularly interesting because of the presence of Shannon, Rolleston, and Utley from New Zealand. Their demonstration that severe reflux can cause destruction of the renal parenchyma in the absence of infection is a very nice piece of work.

The final section on papillary necrosis is particularly relevant to a meeting in Australia where the widespread compulsive consumption of analgesic tablets results in 8% of all necropsies showing evidence of papillary necrosis. There are some very interesting papers about the pathology, clinical, and radiological aspects of the disease. Unfortunately the idiosyncratic views of Kincaid-Smith and Prescott that the necrosis is due to the ingestion of aspirin is once again given an airing, despite the fact that in man the evidence is all to the contrary. Kincaid-Smith's faith in aspirin derives from experiments in rats which demonstrate that their renal papilla, unlike man's, appear to be very sensitive to aspirin ingestion, whereas Prescott's belief has been sustained by his original finding that aspirin ingestion in women increases the urinary excretion of renal tubule cells. In this symposium, however, he also gives an interesting account of the metabolism and central nervous system effects of phenacetin.

This is a book which anyone interested in the kidney should have available.

H. E. DE WARDENER

Muir's Textbook of Pathology, Ninth Edition Revised by D. F. Cappell and J. R. Anderson. (Pp. xiii + 976; illustrated. £10·00.) London: Edward Arnold. 1971.

What a task it is to write a modern 'textbook'—or to revise an obsolescent one! If the book is intended primarily for undergraduates—as this one is—it must be kept to 'reasonable' size and cost. But if it is to include a proper consideration of recent advances, something must be abbreviated or discarded to make way for them. One can imagine spirited discussions between those responsible for the revision. Surely we can cut down on syphilis? But can we, for is not the intrepid treponeme asserting itself anew and would it not be terrible to allow a generation of doctors to arise who knew nothing of its ravages? These and similar conundrums must have been posed repeatedly over such matters as rheumatism, bacterial diseases, and rickets. Conditions such as these, which were common in the days of earlier editions of Muir, must have been considered candidates for abbreviation to make space for 'fashionable' fields like immunology, revised classification of such things as bone tumours and lymphomas, and for clinico-pathological correlations.

D. F. Cappell and J. R. Anderson, who have successively followed Sir Robert Muir in the Chair of Pathology at the Western Infirmary in Glagow, deserve our warmest congratulations in having negotiated these difficult decisions so successfully. The new volume is a mere 16% heavier than its predecessor—but alas the price is doubled.

The first quarter of the book, dealing with general pathology, has been extensively re-written and now includes a 44-page section on immunity and immunopathology that is a masterpiece of compression. There is also an excellent new chapter on healing and repair.

The sections which follow, on special or systemic pathology, adhere, for the most part, to traditional lines. Bone pathology and skin pathology may perhaps be picked out as beautifully presented and succinct accounts of these special fields, but, while acknowledging this, one wonders if the undergraduate needs such detailed information. In other chapters, particularly perhaps in dealing with the heart, a rather more functional approach and more attention to clinico-pathological correlations would have been welcome. It may be that the minimal emphasis on these aspects reflects the fact that Scottish universities examine in pathology at an earlier stage of training than some others.

In the preface Professor Cappell and Professor Anderson list a considerable number of their Glasgow colleagues who have been responsible for the revision of individual chapters and one wonders if the future will see Muir transformed, as so many other textbooks have been, into a multiple-author production.

The publishers have done an excellent job in producing a well laid out volume with innumerable clearly reproduced first

class photomicrographs: the whole impression is of a well balanced textbook following a carefully thought-out and skilfully executed policy from start to finish. It is a pleasure to the teacher to have again available an up-to-date British textbook that he can recommend to his students with complete confidence.

T. CRAWFORD

Methods and Achievements in Experimental Pathology. Vol. 5. **Functional Morphology of the Heart** Edited by E. Bajusz and G. Jasmin. (Pp. viii + 593; illustrated. £20·85.) Basel, Munchen, London, New York, Sydney; S. Karger. 1971.

This is an important book for all of us who are interested in cardiac pathology—and which of us is not? It brings to the study of the dead heart the essential dimension of function that has been so sadly lacking in most accounts of the morphology of heart disease.

As with any multiple-author book there is a good deal of variation in quality between the chapters, but the whole volume is worthy of the pathologist's careful study. The illustrations also vary somewhat in quality but there is a liberal allowance of excellent electronmicrographs.

To sum up, this book is highly recommended to research workers in this field and it will make interesting holiday reading for all pathologists

T. CRAWFORD

Immunology for Undergraduates. Second Edition By D. M. Weir. (Pp. 158; illustrated. 80p.) Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone. 1971.

The second edition of this paperback, following so closely on the first edition published in 1970, testifies to its usefulness. It is a remarkably condensed account of the whole field of immunology, from the mechanisms of innate and acquired immunity to such specialized topics as autoimmunity, transplantation, immunohaematology, and the immunology of cancer, all of which are briefly but adequately discussed. The text is illustrated by 33 figures, most of which are line drawings, and there are also six tables. The general layout of the book is satisfactory, but there are a number of questionable statements. It is doubtful, for instance, whether anaphylatoxin and complement components are required in anaphylactic allergy for the release of histamine from mast cells (page 71), and the statement that from about 20 weeks onwards the foetus synthesizes IgM and IgG (page 38) does not appear satisfactory as it stands. Certainly IgM can be synthesized as a response to intrauterine infection, but this is hardly a normal occurrence. The Epstein-Barr virus is not a reovirus (page 126) but a herpesvirus. Nevertheless this is a satisfactory primer in immunology, and can be recommended to undergraduates.

M. S. ISRAEL

Immunpathologie und Transplantation Edited by H. Meessen and G. Seifer (Pp. xii + 339; illustrated. DM 74.——.) Stuttgart: Gustav Fischer Verlag. 1971.

This book is the report of a symposium on transplantation immunopathology held by the German Pathology Society. The short papers start with an outline of the basic immunological responses to transplantation, this is by contributions in many areas to the immunopathology of transplantation, and also of related immunological or possibly immunological disorders. The contributions come from several countries and the papers are even more diverse, so that there is something for everyone who has an interest in immunopathology. However, as is common in a symposium of this kind, there are several contributions which are very peripheral to the main theme. The brevity of each paper in the large area covered does not make for much study in depth of any section. There are nevertheless a number of useful studies of particular aspects of the subject. It is a volume for those specifically involved in the area, rather than those with a general pathological interest. The book is well produced and English summaries of each paper are included.

JAMES F. MOWBRAY

Conferences

III Congress of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis

The III Congress of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis will be held at the Mayflower Hotel from 22 to 26 August 1972 in Washington, DC. The Congress is cosponsored by the Council on Thrombosis of the American Heart Association. For further information contact: Harold R. Roberts, MD, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Box 630, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, USA.

XI International Congress of the International Society of Geographical Pathology

The meeting will be held at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne from 17 to 22 August 1972.

Topics: Oral pathology, intestinal pathology, and hypobaric pathology.

Further information and application forms from Professor I. Rannie, Dental School, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8TA.

Disorders of Lipid Metabolism

The Association of Clinical Pathologists through its Chemical Pathology Committee is again arranging a symposium on chemical pathology in relation to clinical medicine at the Royal Society of Medicine. The topic this year will be 'Disorders of lipid metabolism' and the symposium is being held on 27 and 28 November under the chairmanship of Dr Barry Lewis (Royal Postgraduate Medical School).

SI Units

From 1972 all measurements in chemical pathology and haematology, where appropriate, should be expressed in SI units (*J. clin. Path.*, **23**, 818-819). Most papers which have already been accepted will retain the original nomenclature, but would authors submitting new papers kindly use SI units with the old notation following in brackets.