chromatograms showed the presence of lactose. Laboratory staff should be aware of this potential artefact.

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Book reviews

Analytical Atomic Absorption Spectrometry By W. J. Price. (Pp. xii + 239; illustrated. £5.80.) Rheine and London: Gunter Heyden Ltd. 1972.

This book was written specifically for either the analytical chemist at his bench or the student of analytical chemistry. The author has arranged the material in the sequence he believed the analyst would wish to develop a knowledge of the subject. The introductory chapter deals mainly with fundamental definitions and the subsequent chapters cover 'Basic principles', 'Instrumental requirements', 'Analytical techniques', and 'Applications'. An appendix contains 'Sensitivities' and 'Details for individual elements'. The book is essentially practical in nature and is on the whole easy to read, although in places there is some confusion. The main defect in this book is the brevity of the chapter on basic principles which covers only 10 pages and is very superficial. The remaining chapters are adequate although at points in the chapters the sequences could be improved to help the reader who is trying to develop a knowledge of the subject. Despite these comments the book is to be recommended for inclusion among the library collections of chemical pathology departments.

M. R. WILLS

Human Blood Coagulation, Haemostasis and Thrombosis. Edited by Rosemary Biggs. (Pp. xxv + 697; illustrated. £7.50.) Oxford, London, Edinburgh & Melbourne: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1972.

Nearly 20 years have elapsed since 'Human Blood Coagulation and its Disorders' was first published. During that time, 'Biggs and Macfarlane' has become established as a standard work of reference for all interested in the clotting of blood. Within the same period, many new discoveries have taken place and many new concepts have been propounded on the subject of blood coagulation and related topics.

The latest edition reflects the changes that have occurred in that the title is expanded to include haemostasis and

thrombosis, and the chapters are written by 17 authorities. One is glad to find, however, that Professor MacFarlane and Dr Biggs are still present as authors and have made many valuable contributions to the book, and that Rosemary Biggs remains in overall editorial control.

The subject matter is dealt with in a clear and logical manner. The first part of the book covers the topic of coagulation and, after a superb introductory chapter by MacFarlane on the theory of blood coagulation, progresses via the various clotting factors and their action to inhibitors of blood coagulation. Another excellent chapter by Professor Born and Hardisty on platelets is followed by one on abnormal clotting factors and a section on the more clinical aspects of coagulation factor deficiencies: clinical features, laboratory diagnosis, therapeutic materials available, and the management of patients.

The second part of the book is devoted to fibrinolysis and includes chapters on the fibrinolytic enzyme system, thrombolytic therapy, the defibrination syndrome and 'Arvin'. The subsequent section deals with thrombosis, anticoagulant therapy, and, in another fascinating chapter by MacFarlane, haemostasis. At the end of the book, there are very comprehensive appendices describing the various tests used in the investigation of coagulation disorders, including tests for fibrinolysis and platelet function.

This edition shows few of the defects of multiple authorship. It says much for all the authors that such a satisfactory state of affairs has come into being, since Dr Biggs admits in the Preface that she has kept editing to a minimum. There is a little, but insignificant, overlap between the chapters. The subject matter is almost always presented in a fair and unbiased manner. Some may disagree with the amount of space allotted to various topics. For example, a chapter on 'The contact system' receives 53 pages whereas the whole subject of fibrinolysis (four chapters) comprises only 114 pages and thrombosis (three chapters) only 109 pages. This may signify a reluctance on the part of the authors to expand from pure coagulation theory into other fields. References also vary from chapter to chapter in their degree of topicality. However, one must confess that these are all minor criticisms.

The book is well produced. All diagrams are clear and the few plates