excellent. It would have been desirable, in a volume of this type, to have included a comprehensive index of authors of references. It is somewhat surprising, but pleasing, to find that, in spite of the multiplicity of contributors, the book has not been increased greatly in overall size. The second edition of Biggs and MacFarlane amounted to 476 pages; the present volume totals 697 pages. There is no doubt that this latest book is as outstanding as its predecessors and remarkably good value for money. It is likely to remain as the standard book of reference on coagulation.

A. J. SALSURBY

Inherited Blood Clotting Disorders. Report of a WHO Scientific Group. World Health Organization Technical Report Series No. 504. (Pp. 48; illustrated. 40p.) Geneva, World Health Organization. 1972. Available through H.M. Stationery Office.

A guide for the conscientious administrator—medical or lay—who is responsible for all aspects of the haemophilias. All is included from clinical states through laboratory tests to management, genetic counselling, and special schools. The main criticism of this and other WHO reports must be the lack of references. One page of review or book references would greatly enhance their value.

H. E. M. KAY

Microbiology of the Seventies A Symposium held at Brompton Hospital, London. Edited by F. J. Baker. (Pp. viii + 196; tables; illustrated. £5.00.) London: Butterworth Group. 1972.

This is a report of a two-day symposium at the Brompton Hospital supported by Mast Laboratories held in May 1971, ie, one year and four months before publication. It includes 13 papers on a variety of subjects, each followed by discussion which was tape recorded at the time. There is a final open forum discussion.

Five papers were given by medical microbiologists and eight by non-medical. Among the subjects covered are virus diagnosis by electron microscopy, with very beautiful pictures; computer indenti-

fication of Gram-negative rods; automation in bacteriology; antifungal drugs; rapid techniques, micro-methods, and work flow in bacteriology. Inevitably, as in any symposium, the standard of presentation and content is very variable and much of it has now been published elsewhere. It is doubtful whether many people will wish to spend £5 on a paperback publication containing little which is new although those who took part may well wish to do so to remind them of what was evidently a happy occasion.

If, as the Editor hopes, this symposium is the forerunner of many, a less ambitious account published within a few months much less expensively would be of greater value to those working in this field.

E. J. STOKES

Progress in Allergy. Volume 16 Edited by P. Kallos, B. H. Waksman, and A. de Weck. (Pp. xii + 498; 52 figures; 31 tables; 2 coloured plates. £14.10.) Basel, Munich, Paris, London, New York, and Sydney: S. Karger. 1972.

The review paper is a mixed blessing. On the positive side it is a collection of references relating to a particular topic which can be used as either a starting point for the tyro or to refresh the memory of the more advanced student. More destructively, review papers are rarely subject to critical scrutiny by other than their author(s) and this can lead to massively subjective estimates gaining a credence far beyond their worth. 'Progress in allergy' specializes in review articles. The present volume flits from a survey of 'Recent developments in immunofluorescent method' (Faulk and Hijmans), to 'Cell-cell interactions in antibody production' (Claman and Mosier), to 'Structure and function of immunoglobulin A' (Tomasi and Grey), to 'Antigens of the thymus' (Schlesinger), to 'Cellular hypersensitivity and immunity': 'Inhibition of macrophage migration and the lymphocyte mediators' (David and David), to 'Immunologic mechanisms of platelet damage' (Osler and Siraganian). Few volumes could better illustrate the bewildering variety of approach to contemporary immunological problems. Nevertheless, despite the initial reservations, the authors of this volume show great scholarship in expounding their topics and without doubt this volume

merits a place on the library shelves of all those interested in teaching or research in immunology.

A. J. S. DAVIES

The Scientific Fundamentals of Surgery By J. Gwynne Brockis. (Pp. x + 719; illustrated. £10.00.) London: Butterworths. 1972.

This book is an attempt by a single author to present to surgeons the whole of the laboratory practice on which they depend for many of their decisions. As such it inevitably suffers from being rather superficial, but it could be useful to the trainee surgeon and possibly the senior medical student. This book is not suitable for pathologists at any stage of development, but then it makes no such claim.

B. C. MORSON

Paramedical Pathology By Alvin F. Gardner. (Pp. viii + 200; illustrated. \$12.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1972.

The author considers a fundamental knowledge of general pathology is essential for the members of the paramedical professions. The aim of this book is to provide such knowledge. Unfortunately this is not achieved in this curiously uneven text. The first 10 chapters are devoted to general mechanisms of disease and present a somewhat panoramic view of such processes as inflammation, repair, and neoplasia. This is the most satisfactory section of the book and many of the photomicrographs are of good quality. The subsequent chapters on special pathology are frankly weak and misleading, eg, the section on pulmonary embolism consists of five lines devoted to an inadequate description of amniotic fluid embolism. This book cannot be recommended for the audience for which it is intended, always supposing such an audience exists.

M. S. DUNNILL

Multiple Sclerosis. A Reappraisal 2nd Ed. By Douglas McAlpine, Charles E. Lumsden, and E. D. Acheson. (Pp. x + 653; 74 tables; 44 figures. £6.00.) Edin-