

and was the only one to yield positive cultures in numbers similar to those from guinea-pigs, despite an inoculum of tissue suspension 50 times smaller. A slope of this medium could with benefit be included for all specimens likely to be lightly contaminated. Preliminary results of other comparisons suggest, however, that direct inoculation of centrifuge deposits of more heavily contaminated specimens, such as urines, yields an unacceptably high contamination rate.

The superiority of S7H11 slopes over selective Kirchner medium might have been due in part to the inhibitory effect of large inocula of tissue, a phenomenon often seen in the culture of tissues

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from experimental animals. It therefore seems preferable to divide the material to be cultured fairly evenly between the different media rather than putting a large remainder volume into a single liquid culture.

We are grateful to Mrs Anne Steward and Mr R. Shah for expert technical assistance.

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The March 1973 Issue

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Letter to the Editor

Book review

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I wish to thank all the general surgeons in the High Wycombe and Amersham areas for their assistance and tolerance in this study, Mr Martin Casling and his colleagues for their technical aid, and Miss Jill Smallwood for her secretarial assistance.

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burgh and London: Churchill Livingstone, 1972.

The first edition of this volume was published in 1965 and was widely welcomed as a classic on an important subject. The present edition will be as appreciated as was the earlier one for it enlarges the outlook and brings in much new and recent research.

There are three main sections: a short one of some 80 pages relating to epidemiology by Professor Acheson is a critical appraisal of a large body of research, some of which has illustrated the problem of obtaining accurate data. This section is most admirably presented in a completely unbiased manner.

Then follows an account of the clinical features by the senior author. This consists of some 225 pages of discussion related to the natural history, symptoms, signs, prognosis, diagnosis, and treatment, all of which are appropriately and very well illustrated by short case histories of patients mostly taken from the extensive practice of the writer.

Finally Professor Lumsden in almost half of the volume writes on the clinical pathology of multiple sclerosis in his own characteristic manner. Towards the end of the section he claims that he may be thought as showing bias to the concept that multiple sclerosis is 'an autoimmune disease' but he hopes this is not true. The reviewer was left in no doubt that it was true throughout, and that the selection and discussion of those papers quoted were such as satisfied this aetiological explanation. It is true that he made a very good case for this concept but some doubt remains nevertheless. Much of his discussion is excellent and his reading exceptionally wide, although even so he has managed to omit some relevant papers. It is also unfortunate that his use, as well as his critical approach, of some biochemical aspects demonstrate that he was not trained in that discipline, nor up to date with biochemical nomenclature. However this is an admirable section and contains an abundance of critically reviewed papers together with many references to his own outstanding studies on the subject.

This volume can be recommended for study especially by neurologists and pathologists interested in this relatively common disease.

J. N. CUMINGS

Recent Advances in Studies on Cardiac Structure and Metabolism. Volume 1. **Myocardiology** Edited by E. Bajusz and G. Rona. (Pp. xii + 835; illustrated. \$29.50.) Baltimore, London and Tokyo: University Park Press, 1972.

This impressive volume is the first of three, which, when completed, will review recent studies in myocardiology (covered in this book), the cardiomyopathies, and, in the third volume, myocardial metabolism. Those familiar with works from the pens of the editors—Dr E. Bajusz of Boston and Dr G. Rona of Montreal—will be prepared for a really original approach to the study of heart muscle, and they will not be disappointed. The 75 papers that make up the text all record original work much of which is breaking new ground—not one is a mere re-hash of previous publications—and are all well documented and illustrated. There is something here for all types of pathologist: histopathologists will relish particularly the 10 papers on myocardial infarction and the many ultrastructural and experimental studies. The use of hereditary cardiomyopathy of Syrian hamsters as an experimental model for studies in this puzzling disease group is especially fascinating.

In short this volume is strongly recommended for the libraries of all departments where studies of heart muscle pathology are pursued.

THEO CRAWFORD

Animal Tissue Techniques 3rd ed. by Gretchen L. Humanson (Pp. xiv + 641; illustrated. £5.30.) San Francisco. W. H. Freeman and Co. 1972.

This is a well known handbook for the histology laboratory bench. It provides clear, accurate information on standard fixation, processing, and staining techniques and will prove useful to both technicians and pathologists in a routine surgical pathology laboratory as well as to general biologists. Each method is well described and accompanied by useful comments so that any beginner will be able to carry out the procedure with confidence and have a good idea of what the final result should be. Adequate references are given. It is perhaps disappointing that, although there is a section on histochemistry and another on exfoliative cytology, the book is

almost entirely devoted to classical histological methods. It is to be hoped that any future edition will contain adequate chapters on elementary fluorescent antibody techniques and on the preparation of material for electron microscopy.

M. S. DUNNILL

Books received

(Review in a later issue is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.)

Hemobilia (Biliary Tract Hemorrhage). History, Pathology, Diagnosis, Treatment By Philip Sandblom. (Pp. xxi + 146; illustrated. £19.75.) Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas, 1972.

Catalogue of the National Collection of Type Cultures—1972 (Pp. xxiii + 289. £2.50.) London: HMSO for Public Health Laboratory Service Board.

Progress in Histochemistry and Cytochemistry Vol. 4, No. 4 Quantitative Dehydrogenase Histochemistry with Special Reference to the Pentose Shunt Dehydrogenases By F. P. Altman. (Pp. 225-273; illustrated.) Stuttgart, Portland, Oregon: Gustav Fischer Verlag, 1972.

Progress in Histochemistry and Cytochemistry Vol. 4 No. 3 Tissue Fixation with Mercury Compounds By David Hopwood. (Pp. vi + 193-223; illustrated. DM.26.—. Preference-price for subscribers to the series: DM.21.—.) Stuttgart, Portland, Oregon: Gustav Fischer Verlag, 1972.

Methods and Achievements in Experimental Pathology, Vol. 6 Nutritional Pathobiology Edited by E. Bajusz and G. Jasmin. (Pp. viii + 245; illustrated. £13.20) Basel, Munich, Paris, London, New York, Sydney: S. Karger, 1972.

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The first European congress on thermography will be held from 17 to 23 June 1974 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. All information can be obtained from the Secretariat, 1st European Congress on Thermography, Organisation Bureau, Amsterdam N.V., P.O. Box 7205, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.