

malate dehydrogenase in glycerol rather than ammonium sulphate solution. When the ability to overcome an obstacle is at hand there seems little point in continuing to flagellate oneself. The same applied to the presence of apotransaminase in the purified enzyme preparations. This was valid and indeed critical in 1959 (Rosalki and Wilkinson) but is no longer applicable to reputable sources today.

As previously recorded (King, Henderson, and McQueen, 1972), this report contradicts that earlier published by the German Society of Clinical Chemists (1970) and would have been better submitted to the Expert Panel on Enzymes of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry for consideration during their deliberations on standard methods of assay. As it is we are somewhat apprehensive at this interference by a Government department through one of its advisory group's subgroup's working party in the international discussions and search for agreement by clinical biochemists.

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Book reviews

Pathology of Injury: Current Knowledge and Future Development. The report of a Working Party of the Royal College of Pathologists. Edited by A. C. Hunter and Metcalf, for the Royal College of Pathologists. 1972.

'Pathology of injury' is the report of the Royal College of Pathologists' working party on trauma. Originally announced as 'Pathology of trauma', the title has been changed to avoid confusion with the publication of the same name that has been produced by *this journal* as a supplement for the Royal College. This change is in itself confusing to those of us who cling to the belief that most of pathology represents reaction to injury. Thus we have two paperbacks of similar size and identical price and it is impossible to review 'Pathology of injury' (a blue book) in isolation, as 'Pathology of trauma' (an orange-coloured book) is the report of the symposium on trauma held in 1970. Drs Stoner and Sevvitt were editors of this symposium and chairman and secretary of the working party. The blue book has an unadorned text and thick pages that have the irritating tendency to spring shut, like a continental paperback, unless the binding is put under severe strain; the orange book contains twice as much text and is well produced and illustrated in the style of the journal that you are now reading.

Comparisons are bound to be made but these two books are complementary. The blue 'Pathology of injury' divides traumatic injury into 17 chapters, many of which were subjects of the symposium reported in the orange 'Pathology of trauma'. This report reviews the state of knowledge of pathology of trauma, stating the facts concisely and quoting useful references. As a wide and general review, it is an excellent source of information that is not readily available elsewhere. In its terms of reference, the working party was required to assess those areas where knowledge is limited, and it has identified in the text a number of subjects that require research. From the first sentence, which is emotive, the report appears to accept that it is a political document and to appreciate that its recommendations for expanded interest and research into injury will have to compete for financial support and manpower.

