

is essentially a good one. As expected, it creates problems and a certain amount of overlapping and repetition is inevitable, leading to a rather patchy treatment of the subject. Certain topics are given prominence and discussed in much more detail than one would expect from a book of the type intended, whereas other subjects get short shrift and this applies in particular to some problems of clinical importance.

Perhaps for reasons mentioned above, the style is somewhat cramped and telegraphic and the book does not make easy reading. One has the impression that it falls between two stools, not quite fulfilling the intention of the author. The book, which was essentially intended as a primer and guide book for students and house surgeons, contains a considerable amount of information of a somewhat esoteric nature of more benefit to a rather specialized reader. The tables on the allotypic markers of human immunoglobulins and of allelic combinations, for instance, can, I am sure, be very interesting and informative to highly specialized workers, but would hardly be of practical use to a medical student or a house officer. Some immunopathology problems of considerable topical interest like the paraproteinaemias, carcinoembryonic antigen, and alpha fetoprotein are treated in a somewhat summary fashion. One would also hope perhaps to find a more critical appraisal of immunological techniques for clinical use and their application for specific problems. Many figures and drawings are ingenious and informative but some tend to be somewhat confusing and the very long legends in small print are not exactly conducive to clarity.

As an encyclopaedic collection of immunological lore, this book could be a useful guide for readers interested in immunology. It is also an excellent glossary of immunological terms which is refreshing, as quite a number of textbooks do not provide adequate explanation of the terms used.

J. KOHN

Organic Acidurias (SSIEM Symposium No. 9) Edited by J. Stern and C. Toothill. (Pp. x + 182; illustrated. £4.00.) Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone. 1972.

This volume records the proceedings of the Ninth Symposium of The Society

for the Study of Inborn Errors of Metabolism. It is going to prove extremely useful since metabolic disorders involving organic acids are becoming of increasing importance, especially in relation to disorders of carbohydrate and amino acid metabolism in paediatrics. Their chemistry and study are complex and many new diseases remain to be defined. Clinical situations with a high index of suspicion were discussed, in the hope that clinicians would become more aware of this group of disorders.

The wide series of topics is covered by experts in the field and cover such disorders as propionic acidemia, the ketotic hyperglycinaemia syndrome, congenital lactic acidosis, branched-chain ketoaciduria, pyroglutamine aciduria, and primary hyperoxaluria and others. In addition a number of chapters are concerned with more technical aspects of the subject.

The presentation, including clear figures of the relevant metabolic pathways, is excellent. This is an excellent volume and I recommend it highly.

B. E. CLAYTON

Intrauterine Infections Ciba Foundation Symposium 10 (new series). Edited by Katherine Elliot and Julie Knight. (Pp. 228; illustrated. Dfl. 28.50.) Amsterdam, The Netherlands: Elsevier, Excerpta Medica, North-Holland. 1973.

This book records a symposium held in May, 1972, attended by 22 virologists, microbiologists, and paediatricians. An attempt was made to cover all aspects of intrauterine infection but, as is probably unavoidable in a symposium of this type, the level of comment on different types of infection varied considerably. Viruses considered in detail are rubella and cytomegalovirus and, to a more superficial extent, viral hepatitis and influenza. Toxoplasmosis and intrauterine bacterial infection, which account for more than all the virus infections together, are not treated to anything like the same extent. The result is that one feels that the subject of rubella has been covered but that other aspects and other infections have been brought in largely for tidiness rather than completeness.

An interesting section on infections during pregnancy in the veterinary field, as well as giving a useful group of references in this area, draws attention to the danger of drawing interspecies conclusions.

Much of the discussion is concerned with the production of both congenital and later acquired deformities, and suffers to some extent from a lack of informed developmental pathological comment but a useful feature is that the participants have supplied references for many of their comments.

This symposium is to be recommended for general reading on the subject of intrauterine infections and a source of references in this field but, apart from intrauterine rubella, the aspects of the condition have been taken at a rather indistinct level between an informed review on each organism with criticism and presentation of current research of the other. The book is a little like the Leonardo drawing on its cover of foetus in a uterus—a little like the curate's egg!

JOHN L. EMERY

Pathobiology Annual 1972 Edited by Harry L. Joachim (Pp. viii + 429; illustrated. \$18.70.) New York: Appleton Century-Crofts. 1973.

Annuals are all the rage nowadays and there is no doubt that they serve a useful purpose in helping the clinical pathologist to keep abreast of recent advances in his subject. This volume is notable for the ease with which it crosses subject frontiers in the discussion of the correlation of structure and function in disease. In a multi-author work some unevenness is inevitable but the 15 articles are all of a high standard, and range from a fascinating account of new concepts in cardiac cellular structure and function to an interesting summary of recent views on penicillin allergy. Two of the articles are concerned with cell kinetics and immunopathology is prominently featured. The book is well produced and clearly illustrated. It is not overpriced.

M. S. DUNNIE