Hand Book of Haemophilia, Parts I and II. Edited by K. M. Brinkhous and H. C. Hemker. (Part I: Pp. xxv + 446; Part II: ix + 447—927; illustrated; D.fl. 325,00; US $135.50.) Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica. 1975.

I must begin my review by saying that this book is beautifully produced and a delight to hold and look at. The book comes in two volumes and contains 63 chapters written by 89 authors. The chapters are grouped into sections, each section dealing with a particular aspect of haemophilia. In volume I, Section A, comprising four chapters, deals with the general aspects of haemophilia and Christmas disease. Section B considers, among other things, the biochemistry of factors VIII and IX, the mode of inheritance of haemophilia and Christmas disease, and the methods for detecting the different variants of those factors. Section C deals with the clinical and pathological aspects of haemophilia. Volume II is laid out in the same way and has sections dealing with replacement therapy, management of patients with antibodies to factor VIII, general management, and dental management, and it ends with a discussion of the educational and socioeconomic problems of haemophilia.

Most of the chapters are of a high standard and provide a useful and wide ranging review of the present state of knowledge of many aspects of haemophilia, but some are much more limited in their scope and present a more personal and often not generally accepted point of view. There is a good deal of repetition throughout the book, and this is probably unavoidable in a multi-author work of this kind. Nevertheless, I think repetition might have been minimized had different groups of authors not been asked to write on similar subjects. For example, the chapter on 'Current approaches to the characterization of factor VIII' is followed by a chapter on the 'Biochemistry of factor VIII'. The ground covered by both chapters is much the same. There is considerable overlap between several other chapters. At the end of each chapter there is a useful list of references, many of which are to articles published as recently as 1974. The illustrations are of a high standard, and this applies particularly to the radiographs of joints which are well reproduced and clearly demonstrate the different lesions discussed.

This book is a valuable addition to the literature on haemophilia and should be on the shelf of every department concerned with research into haemophilia or with clinical management. At £65, however, the book is very expensive, even by today's standards.

C. R. RIZZA

Correction

Use of Counter and rocket immunoelectrophoresis in acute respiratory infections due to *Streptococcus pneumoniae* by R. C. Spencer and M. A. Savage (*J. clin. Path.*, 1976, **29**, 187-190)

On page 188 the first sentence of the last paragraph of the right-hand column should read:

The least amount of capsular antigen reacting in the CIE when doubling dilutions of standard antigen were used was found to be 0·03 μg per ml of sample.