REVIEWS

An Introduction to Pathology. By G. Payling Wright. 1950. London: Longmans, Green. Illustrated. Pp. 569. Price 30s.

There has been a serious need for such a book as this for the last quarter of a century, and it is most gratifying to discover that it has at last been written by an author with so wide a knowledge of the scientific aspect of pathology and so outstanding a talent for accurate generalization. It is planned to give the student an adequate understanding of the basic mechanisms which underlie disease processes. It deals with the principles of pathology in terms of the more fundamental sciences of biology and physiology. Every opportunity is taken to put life into the static facts of morbid anatomy and histology by blending them with the discoveries of modern biology, physiology, experimental pathology, and immunology. Pathogenesis is heavily emphasized and the story of pathology is told in lucid and distinguished English against the background of time. So skilfully has this been done that Professor Payling Wright will undoubtedly earn the gratitude, not only of the junior clinical student for whom the book was written, but also of those of us who undertake the difficult task of teaching general pathology.

The introduction is an impressive piece of writing. It consists for the most part of an account of the history of pathology in terms of the evolution of science and has the same dynamic quality as the rest of the book. Other outstanding chapters are those dealing with the body's defences against infection, the inheritance of abnormalities, haemorrhage, thrombosis, and the aetiology of tumours. The references, which cover an uncommonly wide field, are wisely selected, and of the 250 well-chosen illustrations more than half are photomicrographs and all are of high standard.

Professor Payling Wright's book has several qualities which will ensure its success. It is remarkably free from prejudice and dogmatism; it is easy to read, well balanced, and small in size, but above all it is inspiring.

GEOFFREY HADFIELD.

Disorders of the Blood. By Sir Lionel Whitby and C. J. C. Britton. 1950. London: J. and A. Churchill, Ltd. Sixth edition. Illustrated. Pp. 759. Price 42s.

The appearance of the new "Whitby and Britton" in its sixth edition will be widely welcomed. It has been considerably altered in many respects, and includes an extensive revision of certain chapters to include much newer work on pigment metabolism, the mechanics of coagulation, and haemagglutination. It is only four years since the last edition, but these years have been filled with a vast and growing literature in both the clinical and laboratory aspects of haematology. Such new advances as the treatment of pernicious anaemia with B₁₂, intravenous iron therapy, folic acid metabolism, and the use of tracer elements are all of vital importance to the haematologist. The detailed study of blood groups and subgroups has also provided greatly increased knowledge in a far from stabilized field of investigation.

It is difficult when bringing a textbook up to date to know exactly which new work to include as acceptable, and which fairly to omit, and withal to keep a balanced view of the newer pathology. The authors have managed remarkably well to present in the revised chapters such a balance. The new additions on the absorption and excretion of iron give a much clearer view of the method by which the iron radicle is utilized and of its storage and metabolism, and the diagram illustrating the processes involved is more than useful. The chapter on pernicious anaemia is particularly helpful, and presents an up-to-date picture of the pathology and treatment of the condition. The information on blood coagulation and the haemorrhagic diseases is well arranged, and Macfarlane's table on the factors involved in coagulation enables the reader to follow the discussion with ease.

Nearly 100 pages at the end of the book are devoted to a description of technical methods, and here again some revision has improved a most useful guide for the laboratory worker.