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Book reviews

Connective Tissue Diseases. By Graham R. V. Hughes. (Pp. vi + 266; illustrated; £9.00) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1977.

This book is likely to be of most interest to practising physicians since its emphasis is mainly on clinical diagnosis. Some mention is made of the pathological features of the connective tissue diseases, and it is surprising that the benign localised arteritis of gallbladder and appendix, which can easily be mistaken histologically for polyarteritis nodosa, is not described in the chapters on arteritis which occupy one-fifth of the book. Current theories of aetiology are discussed, especially the role of immune complexes; the role of HLA antigens in ankylosing spondylitis (a condition not dealt with at all as such) could properly have received more attention than a brief mention in the introduction. For the clinical pathologist there is an up-to-date account of the many serological abnormalities found in the connective tissue diseases and a useful statement of the author's views of their value in diagnosis and patient management.

R. B. GOUDIE

Human Hemoglobins. By H. F. Bunn, B. G. Forget, and Helen Ranney. (Pp. x + 432; illustrated; £17.00) Eastbourne: Holt-Saunders. 1977.

This is an excellent review of the abnormal haemoglobin field. Early chapters deal with the structure and function of human haemoglobin and the way in which this is modified in various disease states. Later sections deal with the various structural haemoglobin variants and their associated clinical manifestations, the thalassaemias, and the acquired disorders of haemoglobin. The book is extremely well produced, nicely illustrated, and remarkably free from errors of fact or type; it contains an extensive and up-to-date bibliography.

Although this book deals with the abnormal haemoglobin field slightly unevenly it is by far the best general account of the subject that is currently available. The sections that deal with the modification of haemoglobin function in various disease states are particularly good. *Human Hemoglobins* is recommended most strongly to all haematologists and to others interested in the abnormal haemoglobin field. Impecunious academic haematologists will be encouraged by the news that an abridged version is shortly to be published under the title

'Hemoglobinopathies' in the monograph series 'Major Problems in Internal Medicine'.

D. J. WEATHERALL

Pathology of the Female Genital Tract. By Ancel Blaustein. (Pp. xx + 897; 1206 illustrations and 39 colour figures; DM 118, \$52.00) New York, Heidelberg, Berlin: Springer-Verlag. 1977.

This book contains contributions from 28 different authors, many of whom are household names in the field of gynaecological histopathology. The 39 chapters give excellent descriptions of all anatomical regions of the female genital tract and include an up-to-date evaluation of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia. Six chapters are devoted to the anatomy and pathology of pregnancy and one to a concise assessment of disorders of female sex differentiation. Two other chapters deal with genital tract tumours in animals, both induced and spontaneously occurring.

The chapters vary in quality, the figures and illustrations falling below the average standard in both the endometrial and myometrial sections and also those on the placenta and the pathology of pregnancy. The section on ovarian neoplasms of childhood by Abell could be regarded as repetitious in view of the detailed coverage