

the references (4258 in 225 pages) are now placed at the end of the book. These latter are generally of recent origin, and the whole work is therefore completely up to date, again with the clinical aspects occupying the second half.

The greatest changes have been in the biochemical field, particularly regarding B_{12} and folate metabolism and transport and further understanding of intrinsic factor. It is important to appreciate that folate measurement by radio assay is by no means as reliable a procedure at the present time compared with the same methodology for vitamin B_{12} , and clearly further work is necessary here before reliance can be placed on commercial kits.

This book by an acknowledged expert is a pleasure to read and an excellent reference text, although I felt that the index could be more detailed. At the price, however, it is more likely to find its way into libraries than into individual collections, which seems a pity. It was thought to have been expensive at £10 in 1970! This apart, the monograph is strongly recommended.

HM CLINK

Clinical Hypertension. JD Swales. (Pp xv + 207; illustrated; £6.50 paperback, £10.50 hardback.) Chapman and Hall. 1979.

I read this little book in two short evenings and enjoyed it. It is a clearly written account of the problems facing a clinician wanting to understand or treat hypertension. About half the book is concerned with mechanisms. Very few of these are properly understood and, even when they are, they explain hypertension in only a tiny proportion of patients. For the commoner forms, essential hypertension and chronic renal hypertension, the mystery remains. Professor Swales gives a balanced account of the different hypotheses: dietary salt, volume expansion, mineralocorticoids, renin, catecholamines, the nervous system, structural changes in blood vessels, faulty dilator mechanisms, and combinations of these. The reader cannot reliably assess the relative importance of these claims as the evidence presented is too sparse, but at least he can see that different possibilities exist, and this is not always possible in a treatise on mechanisms.

The second half of the book is concerned with clinical features, investigation,

and drugs, each dealt with separately in the usual way. There is a useful chapter on management, emphasising the important point that hypertension is not a stereotype with all patients requiring all investigations and at the same tempo. Another chapter deals as well as anyone could with the no-man's land of hypertension in pregnancy.

Every year new texts appear on hypertension: symposia reports, journal supplements, large reviews, multiauthor texts, and scholarly monographs. This is briefer, cheaper, clearer, and less detailed than most. It is ideal for anyone wanting a bird's-eye view of a very large field. It does not provide a detailed view of activity in any part of the field but it tells the reader where to look for it.

There are a few minor mistakes and, inevitably, there were parts I did not agree with—diagnosis and surgical prognosis, for example, were not adequately distinguished in renal hypertension—but the fact remains that if I had not been given a copy (the cheaper paperback version at £6.50) I would have bought one for myself.

AF LEVER

Notices

Early diagnosis of testicular cancer
Copenhagen, Denmark, 5-7 November 1980

An international symposium and workshop on early testicular cancer and carcinoma in-situ will be organised by the Nordic Association for Andrology. Further particulars may be obtained from Dr NE Skakkebaek, Laboratory of Reproductive Biology, 4052 Rigshospitalet, Blegdamsvej 9, DK 2100, Copenhagen Ø, Denmark.

3rd European Symposium for Stereology

The Third European Symposium for Stereology will be held in Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, 22 to 27 June 1981. For detailed information please write to Prof Dr Miroslav Kališnik, 3rd European Symposium for Stereology, Institute for Histology and Embryology, PO Box 10, 61105 Ljubljana, Yugoslavia.

2nd International Dermatopathology Symposium

The Second International Dermatopathology Symposium, entitled 'Dilemmas and Directions in Differential Diagnosis', will be held at Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London, 12-15 July 1981.

All enquiries should be addressed to Marcus Summersfield, London Symposium 1981, Conference Co-ordinates, Regent House, 60 King Street, Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 3SH, with the exception of specific enquires regarding the medical aspects of the programme, which should be addressed to Professor E Wilson Jones, Institute of Dermatology, St John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, London WC2H 7BJ.

XI Triennial World Congress of WASP

The XI Triennial World Congress of WASP (World Association of Societies of Pathology and Clinical Pathology) will take place in Jerusalem, 21-25 September 1981.

For further information please write to the Chairman of the Organising Committee, The XI Triennial World Congress of WASP, PO Box 16271, Tel Aviv, Israel.