diagnosis of urinary tract disease. Sadly, it is all too rarely carried out. This neat pocket-sized booklet not only re-emphasises the need for microscopy but gives practical details as to how it should be carried out and contains such superb illustrations that no one should be in any doubt as to what is being looked for.

The only possible criticism of the booklet is the insistence on rather elaborate techniques for the collection of urine samples in both men and women. These techniques have been of great value for research and contributed considerably to the senior author’s distinguished work at Stanford University. They are, however, not practical, or in general, necessary for busy urological clinics. It is unfortunate that no mention is made of more generally applicable methods for collecting “clean catch mid stream urine samples” from women. This is a serious omission.

Given these slight criticisms, the book is very highly recommended, although perhaps a little expensive.

DA WILLOUGHBY


This symposium has produced a series of most interesting papers that begin to highlight the importance of silica in biological systems. Those of us who have been involved in the study of the pneumoconioses have always maintained that we have only been on the fringe of a much larger field of investigation. I think that the appreciation of this problem would have been clarified for the readers of this journal if two more basic papers had been included, covering the mineralogical and basic chemistry of silicon dioxide, emphasising the forms of the material in the environment, and structure and surface properties, leading from the chemistry and physics into the biochemistry. The other improvement would have been to have a chapter on the earlier studies on the effects of the inhalation of silica on man and experimental animals showing the investigations of Kettle and King in this country and Leroy Gardner in the United States, which led to the concepts discussed at the symposium.

JC WAGNER


Microscopy of the urine carried out personally by the clinician is an essential step in the

Notices

Fifth European Conference on Clinical Haemorheology, Bordeaux, June 29–30, July 1, 1987

The 5th European Conference on Clinical Haemorheology will be held in Bordeaux (France) from June 29 to July 1 1987 (Presidents Professor P Boivin and Professor P F Stoltz).

The main topic will be the importance of blood methodology to clinical studies and there will be interdisciplinary sessions. Organised in collaboration with specialist societies for angiology haematoology, neurology, and thrombotic disorders.

For further information from: Professor Michel R Boisseau, Secretariat Scientific, Laboratoire d’Hématologie, Hopital Cardiologique, Avenue Magellan, 33064 PESSAC—France.

Current Topics in Chemical Pathology

Advance announcement in view of change of date and venue

The one day course in Chemical Pathology has been arranged at The Barbican Centre, London, on Friday, October 30th 1987.

The course is open to members of the Association of Clinical Pathologists, the Association of Clinical Biochemists, and all others who are interested in current developments. The Registration fee will be £20.00, which will include the cost of coffee, lunch, and tea. Notice for Registration will be made later in 1987.

DR TYRRELL