REVIEWS

Recent Advances in Clinical Pathology.

By various authors (general editor S. C. Dyke). 1951. London: J. and A. Churchill, Ltd. 2nd edit., with 37 plates and 36 text figures. Pp. 575. Price 40s.

This edition, which has appeared only four years after the original publication, is really a new volume of the "Recent Advances" series and, in fact, it is clearly stated that this issue does not supersede, but is definitely supplementary to, the first edition. Three-quarters of the subjects are new and, while the total number has been reduced by 10, the text is increased by almost 100 pages. These facts indicate the rapid and extensive developments in clinical pathology and it is therefore unfortunate that the publication of this edition was unduly delayed. There are very few references to work published in 1951 and it would appear that most of the manuscripts were prepared in 1950 or possibly earlier.

The subjects have again been divided into four main sections of approximately equal size: bacteriology, biochemistry, haematology, and histology, with a short additional chapter on laboratory design and equipment. Three of the sectional editors remain, namely, R. Cruickshank (bacteriology), E. N. Allott (biochemistry), and A. H. T. Robb-Smith (histology), but R. G. Macfarlane (haematology) replaces B. L. Della Vida, who has returned to Rome. The new chapter, written by Dr. J. E. McCartney, should prove invaluable to the many pathologists who are hoping to extend their departments in the near future, as it includes much useful information and advice on the construction and detailed fittings of laboratories. It must, however, be stated that the recommended accommodation for a large group laboratory seems grossly inadequate, particularly in view of many new, and sometimes com-

plicated, tests described in the previous sections of this book.

The technical subjects have been well selected. They cover a wide range and, as they have been written by accepted experts in their respective fields, the general standard is high. There is a tendency to excessive compression, but most contributors have managed to include in their comprehensive surveys a useful practical summary of the appropriate techniques. In the case of bacteriology, the inclusion of the addresses of the many reference laboratories now available for special tests is welcome. Some points, which may be subjected to minor criticism, are the statement on p. 43 that the estimation of chloride (C.S.F.) is useless in the diagnosis of tuberculous meningitis; the description of several long-established techniques in the chapter on blood analysis; the absence of comment on the Chown test and halometry in the discussions of Rh tests and M.C.D. respectively.

This edition can be thoroughly recommended to all interested in the various aspects of clinical pathology, and it is a pleasure to congratulate the general editor and his colleagues on their excellent and well-balanced production. A further edition will doubtless be demanded and it is hoped that attention will then be given to the format of the book, which is now becoming inconvenient to handle.

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Muir's Text-book of Pathology. Sixth edition revised by D. F. Cappell. 1951. London: Edward Arnold & Co. Illustrated. Pp. xx + 1,090. Price 50s. net.

A textbook on pathology would seem to be, by tradition, associated with the Chair of this subject at Glasgow. As long