The "Neurility" of the Kidney. A Monograph on Nerve Supply to the Kidney. By C. G. De Muylder. (Pp. 80; 46 text figures. 25s. net.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1952.

The contributions of Dr. De Muylder to work on the innervation of the kidney are well known, and this monograph is an account of the present state of our knowledge.

The studies comprise and detail an approach to the intricacy of plexuses in the adult kidney from the early embryonic stages in the human and other species. Nerve-staining is more constantly successful in embryonic material, and an added result has been the discovery of structures, hitherto unsuspected, which are present in developmental stages but absent at birth. Thus intravenous nerve-endings present in the embryonic kidney are thought to be possible pressor-sensitive areas whose functions are acquired later, possibly by the juxta-

glomerular apparatus, as a more complex yet local short reflex regulatory mechanism influencing the afferent arteriolar walls (micromuscular sphincter).

As a general survey the subject is dealt with in five chapters: normal innervation of the kidney; the normal juxtaglomerular apparatus, comparative anatomy, the possible relationship between nervous elements and some aspects of renal pathology, and finally the significance of the nervous constituent of the kidney. The work of the Belgian school is naturally and very clearly outlined and illustrated with fine drawings and photomicrographs from the author's earlier published work. The bibliography is adequate and suitable for those interested in the subject. The English of the text is excellent and engagingly un-English in places to remind us of the origin of the volume. The format and finish are of Blackwell's usual high standard.

J. F. HEGGIE.