The primary aberration from which all the later disturbances in the intestine, pancreas, liver, and respiratory tract follow appears to be an abnormally high viscosity of the secretions produced by the mucous-forming glands in all the affected organs. So firmly does he hold this view that the monograph has been subtitled "A Congenital Disorder of Mucus Production—Mucosis." From this initiating mechanical interference with the flow of the secretions spring all the various obstructive disturbances in the many affected organs which later dominate the syndrome and determine its many clinical manifestations. Of particular interest to those concerned with the treatment of the respiratory complications in this disease is Dr. Bodian's view that the squamous metaplasia in the bronchial mucosa is more dependent on infective irritation than on any deficiency in the absorption of vitamin A.

The book is well produced and is copiously and beautifully illustrated from the editor's large collection of specimens and records. The photomicrographs especially will prove of value to morbid histologists seeking to obtain authoritative assistance in diagnosis.

In this volume Dr. Bodian and his colleagues have added a valuable monograph to medical literature. It is the fruit of a carefully conceived study of this interesting and important disease which has been carried through persistently and conscientiously for a decade. It might with advantage to British medicine be taken as a model for other pathologists who have special opportunities for the investigation of particular diseases of a similarly interesting nature.

G. Payling Wright.


In presenting this study of renal cortical necrosis and examples of other lesions that follow upon concealed accidental haemorrhage—examples of lesser ischaemic renal damage—the authors are most fortunate in two respects; first, on account of the size and range of their series of cases, which in this single collection equals the total of pregnancy and non-pregnancy cases in a review and analysis of authentic cases reported up to 1941, for it has long appeared that the conflicting views on renal cortical necrosis have resulted from the limited number of cases studied by independent authors. Secondly, the authors are fortunate in the time of their work for, although the report is based largely on material collected between 1935 and 1945, the studies were made in the post-war years (the literature is reviewed up to March, 1952), and so it has been possible for the authors to interpret their findings in the light of recent work on the renal circulation and on the wartime renal studies in crush syndrome, incompatible blood transfusion, etc.

In the renal damage seen in 67 fatal cases of concealed accidental haemorrhage it has been possible to distinguish different grades ranging from minimal change attended by proteinuria and tubule casts to proximal convoluted tubule necrosis, then to patchy and finally to gross cortical necrosis, and to equate these to varying duration and levels of ischaemia. The initial renal lesion is held to be cortical vascular spasm which begins at glomerular level, is of a few minutes' to a few hours' duration, and is followed by relaxation of spasm, recirculation of blood, with or without new spasm developing in some part of the interlobular artery. The second period of ischaemia may last from a few hours to 20 to 30 hours. Thrombosis is regarded as a late secondary phenomenon. The aetiology of the spasm is not clearly elicited, but the sequence is thought to be the stimulus of uteroplacental apoplexy followed by neurogenic spasm of the renal cortical arteries. Other views on the aetiology are discussed briefly.

Contrary to the usual custom in scientific papers there is little preamble by way of review of the literature. The presentation is designed on detailed description of the findings in ascending grades of renal damage with brief notes of the authors' cases, then of the cases from the literature that correspond to the several grades. The illustrations are clear; the several histological features are dealt with at length.

The occurrence of renal cortical necrosis in non-pregnancy cases is considered, and chapters on general pathology and cognate lesions are included, as is also one on the clinical aspect during the puerperium.

One feature which stands out in a paper of 186 pages in length is the use of U.P.A. throughout for the term "uteroplacental apoplexy" and R.C.N. for "renal cortical necrosis." This strikes a colloquial note which is echoed at intervals and enlivens the text.

The book is of Blackwell's usual standard in the series which includes Studies of the Renal Circulation and The "Neurility" of the Kidney.

J. F. Heggie.


This work "is designed to review—for the pathologist who is entrusted with medico-legal autopsies, for the forensic science worker, and for the barrister—the last 10 years' experience in the subject" (editor's preface). The title might well stir the pulse of pathologist and potential criminal alike, and the pages will be turned to learn of the latest developments for settling forensic medical problems. The editor himself provides five of the 12 chapters; 10 collaborators the rest. For pathologists not engaged in the forensic field the most interesting sections are those on neonatal deaths, where G. R. Osborn discusses the difficult problem of pulmonary changes,