

and "the obscure autopsy" by Keith Simpson. To those who, like the reviewer, thought "status lymphaticus" safely dead and buried the attempt of Simpson (p. 60) to resurrect it as a contributory cause of death is disconcerting. If lymphadenoid hyperplasia exists, as all admit, in certain endocrine disturbances, it is obviously important to define that disturbance and name it. But it is to be feared that any reintroduction of the term status lymphaticus will only obscure the issue and hinder the growth of further knowledge. And what is the basis of Osborn's statement (p. 45) that the thymus can "more than double its size in only a few minutes" (in asphyxial death)?

The contribution by J. D. Boyd and J. C. Trevor on skeletal material, with reference to sex and age, and the estimation of stature, exemplifies well the value of the expert opinion. Other parts of the volume treat of the forensic aspects of the newer developments in microscopy, photography, and radiology, and here the potential criminal might well decide that the game wasn't worth the candle! W. M. Levitt (doctor and barrister) traces most interestingly the development of the law in relation to hospital authorities and medical staff in actions for negligence. The increasing tendency to litigation in this field underlines the value of this contribution.

A few only of the topics discussed have been mentioned here, but enough, it is hoped, to encourage the potential reader. The general lay-out of the book reflects great credit on all concerned.

DOROTHY S. RUSSELL.

Rutger's Symposium. 1953. New Brunswick: Rutger's University Press. Pp. 80.

The report of the eighth conference from Rutger's University concentrates on the relations of protein metabolism to the endocrine glands. Six contributors deal with specific aspects of the problem that have been of interest to them, without for the most part any attempt at a serious review of the international literature. The resulting patchwork will interest specialists in the field of endocrinology, more especially those interested in the relation of the thyroid, the adrenals, and pituitary growth hormone, but the symposium is not recommended for workers in other fields expecting a comprehensive survey of the problem.

N. H. MARTIN.

The Bile Pigments. By C. H. Gray. 1953. London: Methuen & Co., Ltd. Pp. 142. Price 9s. 6d.

This short book is the third of Methuen's monographs on biochemical subjects. It fulfils a most useful purpose in presenting the chemistry, metabolism, and clinical aspects of the bile pigments to the non-specialist.

The author steers his reader carefully through a complicated subject, and clearly presents his well-

known views on the controversial question of azobilirubin formation.

A technical section completes the book; it is blemished by repeating an obvious misprint which appeared in the original account of one method.

I. D. P. WOOTTON.

Practical Blood Grouping Methods. By Robert L. Wall. 1952. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. Pp. 175. Price 36s.

This is rather a disappointing book mainly because the author gives no evidence that he has himself carried out investigations in this field. This is a serious matter, because many different techniques are available in blood grouping, and the reader wants some assurance that the person who gives advice has tried them all and can speak from a large experience. There are some statements which are bound to put the reader on guard: for example, "the Lewis *antibody* (italics mine) is of particular interest because of its relation to secretor activity." On the whole the description of the various blood group systems is imprecise and incomplete.

The book claims to be a manual of immunohaematology, and it is therefore strange to find no mention of the presence of haemolysins, warm or cold, in the sera of patients with haemolytic syndromes, and not one reference to the Donath-Landsteiner reaction. The value of acidifying sera when carrying out the antiglobulin test for free incomplete antibody in acquired haemolytic anaemia is not mentioned. Auto-agglutinins, pan-agglutinins, and cold-type agglutinins are dismissed in two short pages. The existence of incomplete cold antibodies is ignored.

The author recommends that antiglobulin sera for the Coombs test should be standardized by a precipitin titration, but gives no evidence of the value of this method, nor does he say how it compares with the more usual method of testing falling dilutions of antiglobulin serum against red cells weakly sensitized with Rh antibody.

The foregoing remarks may give too unfavourable an impression of this book. It is well set out and well printed, and correctly reproduces the details of many of the most useful tests in blood grouping. Nevertheless, it is too elaborate for beginners and insufficiently authoritative to appeal to experienced workers.

P. L. MOLLISON.

Correction.—We much regret the error in the paper by C. Raeburn on "The Histogenesis of Four Cases of Angiomyxoma of the Auricle" in the November issue (3, 344). The last sentence of the first paragraph should read: "However, it is clear that minute foci of *hypoplasia* do exist in this region."