

that the elimination of one histological type of tumour characteristic of an early age period allows another type to develop at a later age. Does this mean that all our attempts to solve the cancer problem are doomed to failure?

In conclusion, allow me to make three final comments about the book. The clinical pathologist will find much useful information in chapter 24 on steroid hormone metabolism in cancerous subjects which he can ill afford to neglect in these days of adventurous surgery and hormone therapy. So, too, he cannot ignore the fine summary by Dr. Hueper of environmental, especially industrial, factors in human cancer. He will also discover that most of his enquiries are anticipated in the excellent accounts of diagnostic tests (chapter 28), radiation therapy (chapter 31), and isotopes (chapter 32). I hope that I shall be forgiven if I express my disappointment that serious consideration is not given to metastasis, which is not even mentioned in the index. And may I ask, What does "physiopathology of cancer" mean? I, for one, am no wiser after using this book, though I know a good deal more about the aetiology, pathogenesis, and investigation of cancer.

G. R. CAMERON.

Fundamentals of Neuropathology. By William Brooks Dublin. (Pp. 697; 786 illustrations. £6 13s. 6d.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications; Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1954.

Within recent years several books have appeared with the object of bringing neuropathology into line with general pathology. Dr. Dublin is to be congratulated on having succeeded in this endeavour, for the present weighty volume is an important and serious contribution to the subject of neuropathology: it is, however, based almost entirely on the American literature.

Neuropathology, explains the author, is but general pathology extended, and he sees no justification for the retention in our medical vocabulary of several terms which have grown up with this subject. Early on in this book occurs the statement, which will be regarded by many as heretical, that "Nissl stains, although traditionally important, contribute nothing." It is laudable to attempt the diagnosis of neuropathological conditions with paraffin sections stained with haematoxylin and eosin, but such statements as the above are sweeping in character and he would be a rash man who would deny the importance of celloidin preparation and the Nissl stain in many fields of neuropathology.

The various subjects are treated on conventional lines and the early chapters deal with the neuron, the glia, and their development. In the chapter on congenital abnormalities the author draws attention to the possible importance during the period of gestation of streptococcal pharyngitis in the mother and other forms of upper respiratory tract infection.

Inflammation is treated in a very broad way, for it includes such conditions as toxic encephalitis, diffuse sclerosis, and the Pelizaeus-Merzbacher disease. Disseminated sclerosis is classified as an "inflammation

possibly allergic." The subject of allergic inflammation is well explained, particular attention being paid to the rheumatic group of diseases. He follows Rich (1946) in believing that the various disorders normally listed in this category represent varying types of reaction to different stimulating agents on a basis of allergic hypersensitivity. Cranial arteritis is regarded as a variant of polyarteritis nodosa. Dr. Dublin holds that both clinical, as well as pathological, distinction of primary from post-infectious encephalitis may be difficult or impossible owing to overlap of lesions of the two categories and to the appearance of combined forms, and that primary viral meningoencephalitis occurs more often than is generally realized.

The section on tuberculosis is comprehensive, for such "sub-varieties" as chronic granulomatous meningitis, which the author states may extend over a period of months or even one or two years, and meningoencephalitis *sine bacterium* are dealt with in detail.

The section on tumours is good, even if the presentation of the gliomas is unconventional and somewhat provocative. The familiar medulloblastoma, for instance, is listed as a neuroglioma grade 4.

But Dr. Dublin nobly grasps the bull by the horns when he includes arteriosclerosis and senile dementia among the metabolic disorders, although there are many who will regard the inclusion of Pick's disease within this category as premature. With some justification he holds that cerebral phlebosclerosis is of unappreciated frequency and importance.

In the chapter on injuries the author stresses the role of liberated enzymes, while the importance of fibrolytic degeneration of the dura (listed as a metabolic disease) in the aetiology of subdural haematoma is explained.

The technical section is good so far as it goes, but such standard methods as phosphotungstic acid, haematoxylin and Hortega's silver carbonate are not included, while the method of Holzer is not even mentioned.

This book has many illustrations, the majority of which are good. They are all well chosen and instructive. It is salutary, for instance, to be reminded that death because of cerebellar coning may and does follow lumbar puncture and that the orbital surface of the frontal lobe runs a risk of being seriously damaged during exploration of pituitary tumours.

W. MCMENEMEY.

An Introduction to Pathology. Second edition. By G. Payling Wright. (Pp. xii+636; 47 plates. 40s.) London: Longmans, Green. 1954.

When the first edition of Professor Payling Wright's *Introduction to Pathology* appeared in 1950 it was clear that it was in every sense a new book and no mere re-writing of the traditional texts. The book is based upon the author's undergraduate teaching course, but few even among senior pathologists will read it without both benefit and enjoyment. Although purporting to cover only the principles of the subject, the author makes such liberal use of examples that in fact many subjects are covered in considerable detail.