

but one doubts whether it is appropriate to take five pages of text to describe the workings of the electromicroscope, which only a small number of specialists can use. Similarly three pages of photographs of ultracentrifuges seem unnecessary.

I wonder how good the evidence was that "measles virus has been recovered from the brain" (p. 146) and there is even less reason to give physicians and students any reason to think rabbits and guinea-pigs are of value in the study of measles. I would also question the wisdom of making the unqualified statement that "measles virus can be grown on the chorio-allantois of the developing embryo or in tissue culture."

In spite of these few adverse comments, I should hasten to say that this is a useful adjunct to the growing number of books on viruses and rickettsiae. Sixty-five pages on poliomyelitis are a good indication of the increasing interest in this disease throughout the world, and this chapter is supported by extensive references. The detailed chapter on rabies should also be very useful to those faced with the problem of investigating suspected cases. There are numerous useful tables, and detailed instructions on such subjects as the control of poliomyelitis, and quarantine regulations for yellow fever and maps showing distribution of several diseases.

F. O. MACCALLUM.

Blood Groups in Man, 2nd ed. By R. R. Race and Ruth Sanger. (Pp. 400. 30s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1954.

When the first edition of this book was published it was immediately recognized as the standard work of reference on the genetical aspects of blood groups. Another four years' accumulation of knowledge has been built into this new edition, which is one-third as long again but costs no more.

It is astonishing that the authors manage to present such a plethora of blood group statistics without depressing the reader. The secret is that in almost all cases they succeed in fitting the facts into a reasonable scheme and manage to give the reader the feeling that blood groups follow orderly patterns.

In the few places where the authors present data that they have not themselves digested, the reader is immediately aware of the difference. Examples can be found on pages 198 to 202, where there is an attempt to reconcile the evidently irreconcilable data on the fractionation of Rh antisera; and on pages 34 to 36, where observations on the physico-chemical nature of the B- β combination are presented, which evidently baffle the authors as much as the ordinary reader.

There are a few conclusions which the authors seem to have arrived at on rather slender evidence. As when they say "blood survives a postal journey best in the form of a clot." For the rest one has the impression on page after page that the authors are writing on a subject which they know intimately, and one cannot help being delighted by the mastery of their subject which they constantly display. A particularly satisfying

example occurs on page 251, where the amounts of Fy^a antigen within the genotype Fy^aFy^b are shown to fit an approximately normal distribution.

It is fascinating to learn on page 307 that, of 132 people working at the Lister Institute, 126 had combinations of blood groups which distinguished them from all their colleagues. "The day, foreseen long ago by Landsteiner, when blood would be known to be as individual as finger prints is now so close that it can be foreseen by ordinary people."

No laboratory seriously engaged in blood grouping, in whatever part of the world it is situated, can do without this book.

W. M. MOLLISON.

Pathology in Surgery. By Edwin F. Hirsch. (Pp. xvii +474; 388 photographs. 76s. 6d.) London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1953.

Pathological atlases appear to be popular in the United States, as a similar atlas of surgical histology published by the same firm is advertised on the dust jacket of this book. So long as these atlases are used for reference only and not regarded as a short cut to histological diagnosis they can be quite valuable adjuncts, but no photographs or photomicrographs can replace the study of the actual specimen or section.

In this book the photographs are good and the photomicrographs are clear and representative. Occasionally the photomicrographs are repetitive; for example, there are four almost identical pictures of seminoma testis. Unfortunately the text does not reach the high standard of the illustrations. The language gives the impression of a poor translation and the arrangement of organs under systems is quite haphazard. Chapter 2 on the digestive system begins with a short summary of lesions of the lips and face and includes the tonsils, while the liver, gall bladder, bile ducts, and pancreas are dealt with quite separately in Chapter 7. Descriptions of both macroscopic and microscopic appearances are short and staccato and give the reader the feeling of being bombarded by so many facts that it is impossible to differentiate the important from the less important. Certain aspects of surgical pathology too are stressed which would not be considered in an English textbook. For example, in his general comments on bile ducts the author states:

"Perhaps the most fundamental element in the pathologist's fund of information covering the pathology of the common bile duct is his ability to recognize the duct as a tissue when he is confronted with a segment accidentally removed." Again in general comments on the liver there is a similar statement: "Unless a surgeon for some unusual reason, or by mistake, removes all or a large part of the liver, the tissues of the liver observed in surgical pathology are small biopsies."

It is not a book that can be recommended to students, but may be useful as a book of reference for surgical pathologists.

M. GILLESPIE.