BOOK REVIEWS

conditions. Undue prominence has, perhaps, been given
to Allen's views on this subject, and dermatologists for
the most part prefer the theory of Masson.

The book fully justifies the pre-publication claims of
an important work. It represents, in fact, a tremendous
feat of industry, and, although it may suffer some disad-
vantange from single authorship, on balance the many
advantages are obvious.

The preface sets out the aims of the author, concluding
with the hope that the book will accelerate "the wastefully
delayed fraternization between dermatologists and
pathologists, and between these and other practitioners
of medicine." The work under review should serve this
purpose well and lead the author to "regard the effort
as having been worth while."

The book is a large one, measuring 12 in. × 8½ in. ×
2 in. thick, and contains 1,023 pages of art paper, making
for considerable weight and rendering the work suitable
for reference use rather than as a handbook. There are
495 full pages of illustrations, often with four or more on
a page, so that the total number of photographs, clinical
and pathological, is over 2,000. Practically all the illus-
trations are excellent, especially the photomicro-
graphs, but it is to be regretted that the magnification
of the latter is not recorded—apparently an increasing
practice in the United States.

The index is most complete, containing some 1,700
headings in addition to sub-headings. This means that
there are very few conditions which are not listed and
for the most part dealt with in the text. However, the
Borst Jadassohn intra-epidermal epithelioma is mentioned
in the index and referred to page 58, but the reader finds
that the condition is merely listed under eponyms. On
page 794, however, there is a caption to an illustration of
the condition, and it is strange, therefore, that there
should be no further reference in the text. A similar
remark concerns plate 443, which includes six photog-
raphs of tumours of tendon sheaths to which again no
reference is made in the text. The list of eponyms already
referred to is a useful feature of the book, especially for
pathologists who may feel lost among the manifold names
given to a clinical entity by dermatologists.

The reviewer has used this book in the laboratory for
many months, making frequent reference to it. This has
shown that the book covers an enormous field and that
very little has been omitted, whether it be the radiation
effects of the atom bomb, the bite of the Black Widow
spider, cat-scratch disease, or post-mastectomy lympho-
sarcoma—all find due reference.

Dermatologists will not be in agreement with Allen's
view's on the bullous dermatoses, and will be surprised
by his rejection of the importance of acantholysis.
Pathologists may be a little surprised at the author's
dogmatic pronouncements on Kaposi's varicelliform
crution.

The tumour section is well illustrated and is complete,
but the classification used by Allen will not prove
acceptable to the majority of pathologists, who will view
with surprise the inclusion of Molluscum contagiosum
and of cysts as neoplastic conditions. The condition
known widely in this country as Molluscum sebaceum
(or kerato-acanthoma) receives no mention as such,
possibly because the recognition of this condition as
a clinical entity has been slow in the United States. As
this self-healing condition may otherwise be regarded as a
low-grade malignant tumour its true nature is of great
importance in the correct assessment of 'cure' in treated
cases. However, these are relatively minor criticisms
when such excellent sections as those on melanomas and
mycosis fungoides are considered.

In view of the excellence of production the cost, though
high, is certainly not excessive, and the work can be highly
recommended to all those who engage in a study of the
pathology of the skin.

JOHN O. OLIVER.

The Diagnosis and Treatment of Haemophilia and its
Related Conditions. By R. G. Macfarlane and Rose-
mary Biggs. Issued by the Medical Research Council as
Memorandum No. 32. (Pp. 23. 2s. 6d.) London :

This memorandum attempts to provide a brief, yet
comprehensive, review of the present knowledge of the
disorders of coagulation. The authors discuss both the
clinical and laboratory approach to the problem of
diagnosis and provide a relatively simple scheme for
distinguishing the various disorders.

The technical section details their methods of perform-
ing the tests advised and of preparing the reagents
required. Their use of ammonium sulphate in one-third
saturation as a test for fibrinogen in plasma appears to
require qualification, since this concentration is sufficient
to precipitate some of the globulins in the plasma. Now
that the thromboplastin generation test is coming into
use as a routine laboratory test, it is a pity that the
authors do not advise here the modification one of them
has already suggested elsewhere (Biggs, Eveling, and
Richards, 1955) of omitting the early samples of the
incubation mixture. The first and second minute samples
add much to the technical difficulties of the test and yield
little, if any, information of value. More detail as to the
timing of the test in relation to the collection of the
blood samples would be helpful, as it is advised that the
serum be kept overnight before use. Presumably the
authors collect serum and platelets on one day and plasma
on the next in view of the labile nature of the factor V
and anti-haemophilic globulin. It would be interesting
to know whether significant errors can arise from the
common practice of collecting blood samples in the early
morning and performing the tests in the late afternoon.

The final section on treatment is good apart from the
absence of advice on the treatment of haemarthrosis.
In view of the disagreement which exists on the value of
aspiration, some clear guidance would be welcome.

These minor criticisms should not be allowed to cloud
the author's achievement in presenting a very fine review
of a difficult subject. This memorandum should be in
every laboratory and will be of value to the clinician as
well as to the laboratory worker.

C. A. HOLMAN.

REFERENCE