

The book is well produced, although the price might be considered rather high by British standards. It can be cordially recommended to all interested in the thyroid gland.

N. F. MACLAGEN.

Atlas Zur Spurenkunde der Elektrizität. By Stefan Jelinek. (Pp. viii+78; 94 figures. £6 3s. 6d.) Vienna: Springer-Verlag. 1955.

In this work the author sets out the results of 10 years of personal study and investigation into the destructive effects of electricity. He describes and ably illustrates from his unique collection the large number of different types of injury which may be produced by lightning or electric current on both animal and inanimate matter. He also deals with the associated but less generally known histological changes in various tissues, as well as in the elastic substance and tissue fluid.

The book will be mainly of interest to the medico-legal expert and to those concerned in the prevention of this type of injury.

D. G. RUSHTON.

Practical Section Cutting and Staining, 3rd ed. By E. C. Clayden. (Pp. vii+151; 26 figures. 12s. 6d.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1955.

This is still a sound book for the young technician and the pathologist in training, and there is so much that is good that the deficiencies are the more unfortunate. The technician of to-day is perfectly fit to be introduced to the standard texts, and it seems sad that the bibliography has neither an American text later than Mallory (1938) nor any reference to Langeron, Romeis, or even *Recent Advances in Clinical Pathology* (Dyke *et al.*, 1951). Mallory's phosphotungstic-acid-haematoxylin is introduced in this edition, but there is no mention of a trichrome other than Heidenhain's. The only Gomori method described is the one for haemosiderin. Admittedly, there is no end to methods, but the Gomori or the Masson-Goldner trichrome, to name but two, are to-day surely more widely (and profitably) used than the Nile blue method or Da Fano's neurofibril impregnation. The periodic-Schiff method is given without any suggestion that it can be followed by a nuclear stain, nor is there any suggestion that methods for staining fungi are a modern

necessity. Mast cells are not mentioned in the index. Safranin is wrongly spelled on page 54. By all means commend this to the young as a collection of valuable information on technique, but warn them that the staining methods chosen for description are not quite so generally acceptable.

A. C. LENDRUM.

Dextran: Its Properties and Use in Medicine. By John R. Squire, J. P. Bull, W. d'A. Maycock, and C. R. Ricketts. (Pp. 91; 7 figures. 15s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1955.

This monograph is a survey of the present position of dextran as a plasma substitute. After a discussion on what is needful in a plasma substitute, there is a simple account of the manufacture and chemistry of dextran, followed by chapters on its behaviour in the body and the clinical and experimental uses. In a work such as this, which will be read abroad, it is to be regretted that examples of carelessness occur: for instance, in one place the blood pressure is referred to as 70 mm. without indicating whether systolic or diastolic pressures are meant, and in the bibliography some of the references are incomplete. Nevertheless, the monograph will be of great interest to those concerned with plasma substitutes, with the study of the treatment of shock, or with the use of dextran. The references are invaluable.

ARTHUR JORDAN.

International Congress of Clinical Chemistry

An international congress of clinical chemistry is to be held in New York City from Sunday, September 9, to Friday, September 14, 1956, by authorization of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and the Commission of Clinical Chemistry of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry. Additional information may be obtained by writing to the Congress Secretary, Dr. John G. Reinhold, 711 Maloney Bldg., Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia 4, Pa., U.S.A.

Those who wish to attend are advised to make travel reservations as early as possible.