in Pharmacology ' differs from its predecessor in several ways. With the geometrical progression of new knowledge in so many fields, the editors have wisely abandoned the attempt to cover everything themselves and have invited several experts to contribute in their own subjects. The fact that four of these are clinicians is, as the editors point out, an indication of present trends in research. Another important change is in format. The new edition, perhaps due to recent advances in printing, is much more attractively produced than its predecessor.

The range of subjects considered is wide and it is difficult to think of any significant omissions. There are four chapters devoted to the currently interesting and related subjects of pharmacologically active substances in the C.N.S., psychotropic drugs, catecholamines and 5-hydroxytryptamine, including a section on the clinical use of psychotropic drugs by C. M. B. Pare. M. Schachter deals with the slightly elusive subject of pharmacologically active polypeptides. W. J. H. Butterfield and R. F. Mahler discuss carbohydrate metabolism in diabetes, insulin and the oral hypoglycaemic agents and L. G. Goodwin compares new and old drugs in the treatment of tropical diseases and parasitic infestations. Perhaps the best chapter is contributed by M. D. Milne, who not only discusses diuretic agents, but also gives a clear and concise account of current theories of renal physiology, with the mode of action of the drugs explained, as far as possible, in the light of these theories. Other subjects covered include steroid drugs, chemotherapeutic agents (including the newest penicillins), hypotensive agents and miscellaneous new drugs.

This new edition is an excellent book and can be thoroughly recommended, not only to pharmacologists, but to any physician interested in the pharmacological and physiological background to drug therapy.

Surgeon at the Bedside


This little book gives advice on practical surgical diagnosis. It is concerned with the methodical approach to clinical surgery and does not attempt to be a treatise of differential diagnosis. The importance of detailed history-taking is rightly stressed, and tips are given on how to obtain essential history rapidly and tactfully. The chapters on the history, the evaluation of physical signs, and the uses and limitations of radiology and endoscopy are excellent guides backed by the author's long experience in abdominal surgery and urology. The cautions as to when history, physical signs, and investigations may actually mislead in diagnosis are especially useful; such situations occur not uncommonly and it is right that students should be aware of these difficulties from the start. The observations on observer error are welcome and enlightening.

Some statements made might well be challenged, for example: ' Vomiting seldom occurs with other than abdominal pain '; ' A catheter should be used in the female ' (for obtaining urine specimens); ' A red cell count is almost as necessary as a haemoglobin reading '. The few ' humorous ' illustrations are either irrelevant or tasteless and would have been better omitted. Despite these minor reservations this is a concise and readable book which contains much common-sense and wisdom. It could be read in a short time and with profit by senior students and house surgeons.

A History of American Pathology


Those who read with delight Long's ' A History of Pathology ' (1928), will be disappointed that this masterly performance has not been repeated in the present volume, which is essentially a vast chronology of dates of birth, professorial appointment and death, of all American and Canadian Pathologists, with a broad interpretation of the title in the earlier less specialised era. Each entry — about 1,500 names occur — receives a notice according to importance, Welch alone being distinguished by a chapter woven around his professional life, but most of the book is patterned on the Book of Chronicles rather than Aubrey's Brief Lives. The backcloth to the names consists of the institutions they graced, the details of the evolving administration, the founding of licensing bodies, medical schools, societies and journals, and we are reminded that the United States is a federal union, with regional variation in the timing and pattern of development.

The truth is, that in an age of rapid communication and easy travel — the period covered by three-quarters of the book down to the present day — regional differences in the theory, practice and teaching of such broad disciplines as pathology commands, become of quite secondary importance, and of local, or at most national interest. Clearly for historical, geographical and economic reasons, some American contributions to the general body of pathological knowledge are unique. An account of such achievements, with character studies, incidents, and judicious commentaries and opinions blended into the narrative would form a fairly distinctive history of American pathology, to be assimilated by the general reader. Nowhere in the present text do we have any sense of intimacy with the American scene: there is no lingering, no discursive aside. It is the dust of the ground waiting for the breath of life to be breathed into it.

The Exocrine Pancreas, Normal and Abnormal Functions


A small conference of twenty-eight distinguished investigators has a more refined and creative atmosphere than is possible from large international meetings. This symposium is the first that the Ciba Foundation has devoted to any part of the alimentary tract, and may it be the first of others. The book, well produced, is a record of deliberations covering three days, under the chairmanship of Professor Sheila Sherlock. It has many illustrations such as photographs from the electron microscope, electrophoretic strips, graphs and histograms, is properly documented with references, and fully indexed.

The inelegant title may not convey to every reader its scope. Exocrine, he may correctly conclude, is the opposite to endocrine and refers to the external secretion. This Indeed is covered fully; and a great deal more. Even though insulin and the Zollinger-Ellison Syndrome are excluded. The first subject is the pancreatic cell, its ultrastructure and histochemistry, and the physiology of zymogen granules and other sub-cellular particles which may be precursors of the enzymes of pancreatic juice. Sections concerning the nature and physiological control of pancreatic secretion lead on naturally to the
clinical problem of the assessment of pancreatic function, by secretin and other tests. The etiology of chronic pancreatitis is not dealt with, except concerning hereditary pancreatitis. This condition is associated with a selective aminoaciduria of lysine and cystine, and it is possible that some metabolic or biochemical defect predisposes to it. Diagnostic methods, such as the value of sweat tests for cystic fibrosis, are covered admirably. It is unfortunate that the estimation of the salt content of sweat, so typically raised in children, is of so little help in adults because of overlap with the normal, though it does appear that standardisation of techniques and of the rate of flow of sweat may clarify this in the future.

The gastroenterologist, or anyone interested particularly in the pancreas will consider it worth buying. It is not a tome that can be 'swotted up' for some examination, though it will be of help to anyone whose mental image of this enigmatic organ is blurred, for it will certainly help to improve their focus. The book comes to life in the discussions which are reported verbatim. These are lucid, frank, critical, speculative, and progressive in their outlook; so that the casual reader who has merely decided to glance through the pages, will find himself reading on and learn a lot.

**Handbook of Clinical Cardiology**


This new book is designed for general practitioners, junior hospital doctors and students. It is a systematic, but concise account of the main branches of cardiology. The presentation is good and the style of writing is attractive, making for easy reading. The author even allows himself the occasional jest, for example, 'the bedpan is outmoded.'

Generally speaking, the teaching is sound and, although one disagrees with some of the opinions stated, at least one knows exactly what the writer thinks.

The approach is entirely clinical, and for this reason the book will be useful to students who are making their first attempts at bedside diagnosis. Another good point is the commendable practice of giving exact doses of any drug mentioned. A mistake here is the recommendation of an initial day's dose of 200–300 mg. of phenindione (Dindevan), which is excessive. There are also some errors in the general text. For example, it is stated that the third heart sound is accentuated in mitral stenosis. How a sound caused by rapid filling of the ventricle is increased in the presence of an obstruction to filling, is not explained. And no wonder.

The section on congenital heart disease is not satisfactory, and particularly so about atrial septal defects. The vital fact that splitting of the second sound is fixed on respiration, is not even mentioned; the statement here that 'the pulmonary second sound is split' is just not good enough in a book published in 1962.

In spite of these mistakes, this book has quite a lot to recommend it. Many teachers would be adamant in having mastered the cardiological section of a general medical text book, seekers after further knowledge should study Paul Wood's 'Diseases of the Heart and Circulation,' but there must be many doctors dealing with heart disease every day, who will be unable to take this advice, and for them, the book under review will do considerable good.

For 25s. and only a few hours reading, substantial teaching may be obtained. The book itself is well bound and an unusually tough quality paper is used. There are a number of E.C.G. reproductions and line diagrams, and also 10 plates of radiographs, which have not come out too badly, though the one supposed to show Kerley lines, just doesn't, at least in the reviewer's copy.

**Electrodiagnosis and Electromyography**


This publication constitutes the first of five volumes edited by Dr. Sidney Licht and called the 'Physical Medicine Library'.

That a second and greatly expanded edition has been required less than five years after its original appearance indicates the scale and speed of recent advances in this branch of medicine. As the author points out in his historical review, progress in this subject has until recently been associated with major wars resulting from the surge of peripheral nerve injuries requiring assessment and treatment.

Electromyography is a very modern science dating from about 1929 when Adrian invented the coaxial needle electrode and introduced the loud speaker as a method of illustrating changes in nerve and muscle potentials. It is only since the end of the Second World War, however, that electromyography has become a practical routine clinical procedure, mainly as a result of technological advances in the field of electronics. These advances have also made possible measurements of sensory and motor conduction velocities and their variations in physiological and pathological states.

To describe and critically evaluate these techniques Dr. Licht has collected a team of internationally acknowledged experts. The first six chapters deal essentially with the physiological and anatomical principles concerned in electrodiagnosis. Then follow two elementary but comprehensive chapters on routine electrodiagnostic procedures, the first of these by Philippe Bauwens. Wynn Parry contributes a concise but clear explanation of the scope of 'Strength Duration Curves', and to mention other British contributors, Harris writes on the significance of 'Chronaxy', Taverner on the 'Clinical application of Electromyography' and Gilliatt contributes as an acknowledged expert on the problems of motor and sensory nerve conductions. Finally there are two highly specialized chapters on electroencephalography and electroretinography.

There is a complete subject and author index and each chapter is followed by a selected bibliography. The book throughout is well produced and the diagrams are clear.

In his preface the editor says that the first edition became a standard textbook to many training programmes in the United States and elsewhere. It seems likely that his commendable efforts will make the second edition a universal authority for all those interested in this complex, esoteric but rapidly developing branch of clinical medicine.