

## Books received

- Gynaecology in General Practice*. Collected articles from the *British Medical Journal*. Pp. 125, illustrated. London: British Medical Journal, 1972. £1.00.
- Lactogenic Hormones*. Edited by G. E. W. WOLSTENHOLME and JULIE KNIGHT. Proceedings of a Ciba Foundation Symposium held in May, 1971. Pp. 416, illustrated. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1972. £5.00.
- Transport Across the Intestine*. Edited by W. L. BURLAND and PAMELA D. SAMUEL. Proceedings of a Glaxo Symposium held in March 1971. Pp. 291, illustrated. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1972. £4.00.
- Episiotomy—Physical and Emotional Aspects*. Edited by SHEILA KITZINGER. Pp. 25, illustrated. London: National Childbirth Trust, 1972. Price not stated.
- Human Ecology—A Christian Concern*. By STANLEY G. BROWNE. Pp. 22. London: The Christian Medical Fellowship, 1972. 10p.
- Laboratoriumsdiagnose*. By H. ASAMER, W. R. MAYR and F. SCHMALZL. Pp. 381, illustrated. Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1972. \$21.20.
- Perspectives on Violence*. Edited by GENE USDIN. Pp. 161. London: Butterworths, 1972, £2.70.
- Surgery of the Oesophagus*. Edited by R. ABBEY SMITH and R. E. SMITH. Proceedings of a Conference held at the Postgraduate Medical Centre, Coventry in July, 1971. London: Butterworths, 1972. £6.00.
- Pathobiology Annual 1971*. Edited by HARRY L. IOACHIM. Pp. 380, illustrated. London: Butterworths, 1972. £7.25.
- Prostaglandins*. By E. W. HORTON. Pp. 197, illustrated. London: Heinemann, 1972. £9.35.

- Rabies*. By B. BISSERU. Pp. 480, illustrated. London: Heinemann, 1972. £5.00.
- Modern Trends in Endocrinology—4* Edited by F. T. G. PRUNTY and H. GARDINER-HILL. Pp. 411, illustrated. London: Butterworths, 1972. £9.75.
- Annual Progress in Child Psychiatry and Child Development, 1971*. Edited by STELLA CHESS and ALEXANDER THOMAS. Pp. 614, illustrated. London: Butterworths, 1971. \$15.00. Brunner/Mazel, New York.
- Corneal Grafting*. By T. A. CASEY. Pp. 340, illustrated. London: Butterworths, 1972. £10.00.
- Modern Trends in Diseases of the Ear, Nose and Throat—2*. Edited by MAXWELL ELLIS. Pp. 401, illustrated. London: Butterworths, 1972. £8.00.

### New editions

- An Atlas of Diseases of the Eye*. By E. S. PERKINS and PETER HANSELL. Second edition. Pp. 86, illustrated. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1971. £6.00.
- The Preterm Baby*. By V. MARY CROSSE. Pp. 290, illustrated. Seventh edition. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1971. £3.00.
- Anatomy—Regional and Applied*. By R. J. LAST. Fifth edition. Pp. 925 illustrated. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1972. £8.00.
- Diseases of the Kidney*. Edited by MAURICE B. STRAUSS and LOUIS G. WELT. Second edition. Pp. 1456 (2 Vols.) illustrated. Boston: Little, Brown, 1971. London: Churchill Livingstone. £23.00.

## Book reviews

### Blood Coagulation Simplified

By F. NOUR-ELDIN. Second edition. Pp. 196, illustrated. London: Butterworths, 1971. £2.00.

This is a small paperback book of 196 pages including an index and a list of references. There is also a chapter called Exercises and Hints for Examinations. The book, which is well written and quite easy to read, is really intended for medical laboratory technicians in training but it is useful to anybody seeking a simple exposition of blood coagulation. The second edition is about 30 pages longer than the first, the major difference being the addition of a chapter on thrombosis.

Dr Nour-Eldin is undoubtedly an expert in this field and has written a large number of relevant papers. He is therefore able to discuss the subject with a very practical approach, mostly from the laboratory point of view though some clinical aspects are included. The book will be welcomed by all those seeking a lucid and concise discussion of a rather difficult subject.

### Pathology of Conducting Tissue of the Heart

By M. J. DAVIES. Pp. 199, illustrated. London: Butterworths, 1971. £4.20.

The work outlines straightforward techniques for studying the conducting system of the heart and defines the morphological changes responsible for cardiac arrhythmias and conduction disturbances. The author's personal collaboration with the staff of a large pacing unit is reflected in the detailed discussion of all clinical types of atrioventricular block. The text is completed by a large composite reference section and a short index.

The layout of the work is pleasing but marred by some typographical errors and occasional blurring of the typescript. The black and white histological reproductions are disappointing, their magnification being neither high enough to show clear definition nor low enough to allow accurate orientation. Coloured plates and some associated electron microscopic material would have been more informative.

The author has provided an authoritative review and an excellent bibliography of this subject which effectively covers a much neglected area of investigation. The book's appearance coincides with a renewed interest in cardiac revascularization procedures and both these factors should stimulate further work on this aspect of cardiac pathology.

The book is an essential reference manual for workers in all branches of cardiology.

### Recent Advances in Haematology

Edited by A. GOLDBERG and M. C. BRAIN. Pp. 387, illustrated. London: Churchill Livingstone, 1971. £4.00.

This book is composed of reviews on a number of topical subjects in haematology, each contribution being made by an eminent worker in the field. Much of the information is probably too advanced for students approaching final M.C.Path. but it is presumably intended for the specialist haematologist and, as such, is a most welcome addition to the Recent Advances series. All the subjects are covered in some depth and with emphasis on biochemical and genetic basis of disease.

The collection of articles covers a wide field. There is, for example, an excellent account by Dr Hamilton Fairley of the present position in the treatment of malignant blood diseases,

a subject much discussed in the current literature. There is, on the other hand, a most authoritative and readable review of anaemia in the tropics by Professor Pitney, a subject sadly neglected in the literature generally. Other excellent accounts are those by Dr Weatherall on the abnormal haemoglobins, and by Dr Turpie, McNicol and Douglas on platelets. Dr Hoffbrand has contributed a section on the megaloblastic anaemias and perhaps because of the controversial nature of the subject, is a rather more difficult one to review. The article generally is of more value as a reference one and indeed the bibliography in this and all the sections is very comprehensive.

Generally the book is well compiled and should be an invaluable addition to the specialist bookshelves.

#### Pyrogens and Fever—A CIBA Foundation Symposium

Edited by G. E. W. WOLSTENHOLME and JOAN BIRCH, Proceedings of a Symposium held in July 1970. Pp. 232, illustrated. Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone, 1971. £3.00.

Although fever is one of the longest recognized and most common manifestations of disease, remarkably little is known of the mechanisms involved in its production. The discovery in 1948 that leucocytes can produce a pyrogenic substance (leucocyte/endogenous pyrogen) gave a much needed stimulus to further research. The Ciba Symposium, held in July 1970, provided an opportunity for the small band of distinguished workers in this field to review the present situation.

The initial papers and discussion deal with the various properties of bacterial/exogenous pyrogen (endotoxin). It is apparent that continuing inability to characterize these substances chemically and to quantitate them by methods other than unsatisfactory bio-assays is a great stumbling block. Hence, the confusing proliferation of almost, but not quite, synonymous names. Further papers are concerned with the mechanisms involved in endogenous pyrogen production, where characterization and quantitation are, similarly, problems that are not going to be solved very readily. The place of the central nervous system in the response to pyrogens, the mechanism of action of antipyretics and the pharmaceutical aspects of pyrogens are also covered. The relevance of the experimental work presented and discussed, to clinical situations is by no means clear. Species differences in responses to pyrogens add to the difficulties of interpretation.

This volume will not aid the clinician one iota in his everyday clinical practice. It should nevertheless be read by all

clinicians who would like a lucid and stimulating account of the many unknowns and current lines of research in this important clinical field.

#### Pathology of Tumours of the Nervous System

By DOROTHY S. RUSSELL and LUCIEN J. RUBINSTEIN, with a chapter on the Study of Tissue Culture of Tumours of the Nervous System by C. E. LUMSDEN. Third edition. Pp. 429, illustrated. London: Edward Arnold, 1971. £10.00.

Russell and Rubinstein's Pathology is recognized throughout the English speaking world as the book on tumours of the nervous system. The first edition appeared in 1959 and eight years have elapsed between the second and third editions. The authors claim with justification that whilst relatively little has been deleted, some sections have been radically overhauled and new observations incorporated. The lucidity of text and clarity of illustration, apparent in earlier editions, have been maintained, and most of the delicately argued discussion is now accepted teaching.

The pre-eminence of the earlier editions will have ensured that this edition will be added, almost automatically, to the shelves of departmental libraries. But it is possible for a book to be too well known; and latterly, rival tomes, usually more expensive and voluminous, have appeared in competition. For the neuropathologist seeking greater detail these volumes are not unattractive, but for the neurologist, neurosurgeon or general pathologist, Russell and Rubinstein must remain the introduction to the subject. The first 330 pages are traditionally based upon light microscopy with additional reference to electron microscopy where appropriate and a useful chapter is provided on deformations and other structural changes produced by intracranial tumours. Rather than provide a further edition in a few years time, I would seek to persuade the authors to republish this section at a cost of say £6 to provide a really tempting bargain for all those who desire a personal copy of this classic.

Earlier editions contained a chapter on tissue culture. This chapter now extends to ninety pages. But the advances made in this field have proved rather disappointing and the chapter appears a trifle inflated. There is no corresponding chapter on electron microscopy and no reference whatsoever is made in the index to the histochemistry of tumours. Virological aspects of tumours are only briefly mentioned. A companion work, under the same auspices, permitting a similar treatment of these advances and incorporating a section on histological techniques, especially as applied to smears and CSF cytology, would be the dream of every neuropathologist.



## Recent Advances in Haematology

*Postgrad Med J* 1972 48: 321-322  
doi: 10.1136/pgmj.48.559.321-b

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