studies are said to have appeared in 1956, and there are four mistakes in the German title of this single work, and third, and most irritating, the text and references do not always agree (there are differences in dates and names, and some references do not appear at all). These are all minor points, but as they are indicative of careless compilation and proof reading they undermine one’s confidence in the book. The book is well illustrated, many of the photomicrographs being in colour, but several of the figures are duplicated.

This book will be of interest to those working on arterial disease, but one feels that the author should either have expanded his review chapters and made them more critical, or compressed them into a coherent whole and made the main body of his work relate to his own personal field of vessel wall tissue culture.

Some Aspects of Internal Irradiation


In the preface, Thomas F. Dougherty, one of the Editors, points out that there are few reviews concerning pathological changes induced by internal irradiation, and the aim of this Symposium was to bring those with interest in this field together.

As might be expected from so many distinguished contributors, the standard of the individual papers was very high. When published in a single volume, together with details of the subsequent discussion which took place, the result is a most valuable book. This should not only be of interest to Radiologists, Medical Physicists and Radiotherapists, but to cancer research workers, Pathologists and many general Physicians.

The book is well indexed and in my opinion should be available as a standard book of reference in every relevant department.

Tumour Viruses of Murine Origin—Ciba Foundation Symposium


This symposium, consisting of seventeen papers contributed and discussed by leading researchers in the field of murine tumour viruses, was held in Perugia, Italy in June 1961. It served to bring up to date and to concentrate a vast amount of knowledge in this rapidly advancing field.

W. Bernard and Nicole Granboulan describe the electron microscopic morphology of oncogenic and non-oncogenic murine viruses.

Three papers are devoted to the mouse mammary tumour agent of Bittner. More than one-third of the symposium deals with leukemogenesis in the mouse. Ludwik Gross, who in 1951 demonstrated that spontaneous murine leukemia could be transmitted by cell-free extracts to newborn mice of a low-leukemic strain, reviews the origin, biological and pathogenic properties of the Gross ‘passage A’ virus. In AKR mice, according to D. Metcalf, an abnormal adrenal-thymic homeostatic regulation results in an increased level of proliferative activity of the thymus, thus resulting in a favourable environment for the proliferation of the Gross virus. J. F. A. P. Miller, however, after experiments involving thymectomized mice, suggests that the thymus provides the necessary environment wherein the lymphocytes in virus-infected hosts can be transformed to fully autonomic leukemic cells. Miller’s theory is based on the fact that mice thymectomized at birth do not develop leukemia although the virus is present in the tissues of the animal. Such an animal, if given a thymus graft from a susceptible newborn animal will develop leukemia in the graft.

Other papers cover the polyoma virus. The discussions following each paper, as well as the general discussion at the end of the symposium, are both stimulating and informative, and add immeasurably to the value of this volume.

Fluid and Electrolytes in Practice


This book is aimed to ‘facilitate the practical application of disorders of fluid and electrolyte metabolism for the student and practising physician’. In this it is largely successful, for this notoriously difficult subject, is presented here in a relatively simple and straightforward manner. The type is large and clear, there are frequent subheadings and the absence of references in the text all help to make it an easily readable book. There is a good index and a useful, mainly American, bibliography at the end, but the original source of controversial statements is not always evident, so that the book may not be so useful for the more knowledgeable.

The first part is concerned with general principles and application to surgery, the second half being restricted to a few special situations, including a valuable chapter on pathologic fluid balance. There is some discrepancy in presentation in this respect, for several other subjects could have been usefully included in the second part, such as a chapter on respiratory failure and another on corticosteroids, and pituitary and adrenal disorders receive rather scant and scattered attention.

Although there are several views with which one does not agree, the subject matter is mainly accurate, orthodox and up to date. For instance, it is agreeable to find that the routine prophylactic administration of potassium is recommended for all patients, with normal renal function, having prolonged intravenous therapy. The chapter on surgical management gives a clear account of the physiological response to trauma or operation and sound practical advice. However, it might have been more helpful if there had been further discussion on the too frequent post-operative electrolyte complications which lead to so much confusion and difficulty in practice, even though these usually originate from lack of knowledge of the fundamental principles already outlined.

The book can be strongly recommended to undergraduate and postgraduates because of the clear presentation of important principles, but it is doubtful whether it will be so helpful to the practising physician as the preface would suggest.

Medical Embryology; Human Development—Normal and Abnormal


The author of this book, who is the Professor of Anatomy at McGill University, Montreal, has set out to produce a concise textbook of embryology for the medical student. One must immediately say that the attempt has been successful. Considerable attention is paid to clinical features of importance and a chapter has been devoted to the aetiology of congenital defects. Throughout the text particular emphasis is placed on human development. The book is most pleasantly produced and the text is easy to read. A particular word of praise must go to the illustrations; these are extremely clear, of high artistic merit and add considerably to the value and beauty of the book.