Books received

- Liver Disease.* By A. PATON. Pp. 185, illustrated. London: William Heinemann, 1969. 30s.
- Virus Diseases of the Liver.* By A. J. ZUCKERMAN. Pp. 158, illustrated. London: Butterworths, 1970. £4 6s.
- Cardiovascular Pathology.* Vol. 3 (Supplement to Vols. 1 and 2). By R. E. B. HUDSON. Pp. 1166, illustrated. London: Edward Arnold, 1970. £24.
- Acrylic Cement in Orthopaedic Surgery.* By J. CHARNLEY. Pp. 131, illustrated. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1970. £3.
- Behaviour Therapy in Clinical Psychiatry.* By V. MEYER and E. S. CHESSE. Pp. 288. Harmondsworth, Middlesex: Penguin Books, 1970. 15s.
- Primary Repair of Soft Tissue Injuries.* By R. V. S. THOMPSON. Pp. 284, illustrated. Melbourne: University Press, 1970. £7 6s.
- Biologically Active Amines found in Man.* By F. FRANZEN and K. EYSELL. Pp. 244, illustrated. Oxford, London etc.: Pergamon Press, 1970. Price not given.
- Scientific Basis of Drug Dependence.* Edited by HANNAH STEINBERG. Pp. 429, illustrated. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1970. £5.
- Medical Care. The Changing Needs and Pattern.* By SIR GEORGE GODBER. Ciba Foundation Anniversary Lecture. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1970. 15s.
- Peripheral Arterial Disease. A Physician's Approach.* By R. L. RICHARDS. Pp. 126, illustrated. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1970. £2 10s.

- Proceedings of the Migraine and Manipulation Symposium.* November 22, 1969. Pp. 24. London: British Association of Manipulative Medicine and The British Migraine Association, 1970. 5s.
- Methods in Microbiology,* Vol 2. Edited by J. R. NORRIS and D. W. RIBBONS. Pp. 432, illustrated. London and New York: Academic Press, 1970. £5 15s.
- Recent Advances in Neurology.* Edited by FRED PLUM. Contemporary Neurology Series. Pp. 254, illustrated. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1970. £3.
- The Frozen Cell.* A Ciba Foundation Symposium. Edited by G. E. W. WOLSTENHOLME and M. O'CONNOR. Pp. 316, illustrated. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1970. £3 5s.

New Editions

- Injuries of the Knee Joint.* By I. S. SMILLIE. Fourth edition. Pp. 393, illustrated. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1970. £8.
- Recent Advances in Anaesthesia and Analgesia.* Edited by C. LANGTON HEWER. Tenth edition. Pp. 342, illustrated. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1970.
- Biochemical Disorders in Human Disease.* Edited by R. H. S. THOMPSON and I. D. P. WOOTTON. Third edition. Pp. 875, illustrated.
- Introduction to Obstetrics.* By G. H. GREEN. Fourth edition. Pp. 273, illustrated. Christchurch, New Zealand: N. M. Peryer, 1970. \$4.75.

Book reviews

Physiology of the Human Kidney

By LAURENCE G. WESSON. Pp. xxi + 712, illustrated. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, 1969. \$34.

This useful monograph on the physiology of the human kidney is intended to be a sequel to Homer Smith's famous book, 'The Kidney—Structure and function in health and disease', which was published in 1951. Dr Wesson is an internationally famous pupil of Homer Smith, and has done a great service to nephrology in the preparation of this detailed work. Most of the chapters deal with the excretory functions of the kidney, and all these were compiled by the Author himself. Two chapters on the renin-angiotensin system and the erythropoietic function of the kidney were written by Drs Mulrow, Goffinet, and Erslev.

This monograph however can only be recommended as a source and reference book for research workers and advanced students of nephrology and renal physiology. It is so crammed with detailed information that consecutive reading is extremely difficult and time-consuming. As a reference book with the purpose of reviewing the productive 18 years of research on renal function since the publication of Homer Smith's monograph, it can only be given the highest praise. Dr Wesson and his colleagues have carried out a monumental amount of detailed work in the preparation of this monograph, and deserve the sincere gratitude of all physiologists and clinicians interested in renal function in health and disease.

Bacteriological Episomes and Plasmids

Edited by G. E. W. WOLSTENHOLME and MAEVE O'CONNOR, Ciba Foundation Symposium. Pp. 268. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1969. £3 10s.

This volume is a record of a small international meeting of experts held in the Autumn of 1968. There are fourteen papers on various aspects of the title subject interspersed with discussions, the symposium terminating with a general discussion on selected topics. The excellent editing of the discussion sessions is particularly noteworthy, the lively exchanges of ideas and airing of differences making stimulating reading for the interested specialist. Much of the text is in the unique and, to the uninitiated, incomprehensible tongue of the microbial geneticist. However, all users of antibiotics should read the sections devoted to transferable drug resistance and its importance in the fields of medical and veterinary practice, and in animal husbandry. Dr Anderson's account of the rapid spread of a food poisoning organism displaying transferable drug resistance is impressive and somewhat horrifying. Similarly, Dr Chabbert's outline of the medical importance of transferable resistance and its distribution in the community, and his general conclusion that it is clinically more harmful than chromosomally controlled resistance should stimulate medical readers to some salutary thinking. Unlike Dr Anderson's outbreak, not all the ecology of transferable resistance described by Dr Chabbert can be attributed to the misuse of antibiotics by those who rear animals for human consumption, and the implications are clear enough for all of us who prescribe these drugs.

Here then is a book for the microbiologist and the large medical library, while a part of it makes recommended and interesting reading to the practising doctor.