

Among many good sections only a few can here be listed, such as the prophylaxis against puerperal sepsis and the technique of barrier nursing, a review of stillbirth and neonatal death, spasmodic dysmenorrhoea and the discussion on anuria and oliguria, but the chapter on venous thrombosis stands out particularly for its wealth of concise and lucid information.

The obstetrical sections are complementary to much that is contained in the author's Ante-natal and Post-natal Care, which explains the absence of chapters, for example, on abortion, pregnancy complicated by diabetes, disproportion and antepartum haemorrhage. Undue prominence appears to have been given to heliotherapy in the treatment of pelvic tuberculosis, and a fuller assessment of conservative versus radical treatment might be given. The use of intravenous ergometrine before delivery of the placenta might be more fully debated for enthusiasm in its use is increasing and its consequent abuse becomes more likely. Isodose curve charts would be welcome in describing radium techniques in the treatment of uterine cancer, and a few more diagrams would be helpful in describing the development of the genital organs. These few minor criticisms are made only in hopeful anticipation of future editions. The book deserves, and will get, an assured place among the standard textbooks of postgraduate study.

I.D.

### HISTOLOGY

By ARTHUR WORTH HAM, M.B. Pp. xix + 756, with 445 illustrations. London: J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1950. £4.

Dr. Ham is Professor of Histology at Toronto. His previous publications include one in collaboration with a psychologist on the learning problems of medical students, and throughout the book he gives evidence of a real understanding of the student mind, of the simple-seeming problems in visualization that hold up even the brightest and of the profitable discursions into which even the dullest will gladly be drawn. Patiently and thoroughly he progresses through the body, never fearing to pause for explanation or to follow a vein of interesting application, gilding his primary business of descriptive histology but never neglecting it. The result is most impressive. This is not a book in which to look for minutiae of cytology, but it is remarkably thorough in dealing with many things which are simple enough but lurk somehow in the twilight of most people's knowledge—the relation between microscopic and macroscopic appearance in the skin, the cycle in hair follicles, the build-up of the liver lobule, endochondral ossification (with a really intelligible diagram) and many others.

The pity only is that he takes 756 pages to do it, and that the resultant cost is so high. Whether one could be justified in expecting students in this country to pay so much for a text book of histology is debatable. For its service in illuminating so much of the no man's land between anatomy and physi-

ology it will repay him the light labour of reading it, but much of it will be outside his needs. The practising histologist or histopathologist will find it chiefly of use as a source of ideas in teaching. For the embryo pathologist, who so often finds that his ignorance of histology is his first and highest hurdle, and to whom the more detailed reference texts are not at first much help, this is the best book I know.

B.L.

### THE RHESUS DANGER

By R. N. C. McCURDY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Pp. 138. London: William Heinemann. 1950. 5s.

For medical men who are naturally chiefly concerned with the complex scientific aspects of iso-immunization, this book is a welcome reminder of the wider social issues involved. In its later chapters the author considers the position of the Rh-negative woman who has become immunized against her homozygous Rh positive husband, and who has little chance of giving birth to healthy children. The practice of contraception and the wisdom and legal implications of sterilization, abortion, adoption, artificial insemination and divorce as means of overcoming Rh incompatibility are all discussed.

Dr. McCurdy quite rightly emphasizes that the final opinion on the above questions can be given only at the present time.

J.V.D.

### RECENT ADVANCES IN OCULAR PROSTHESIS

By J. H. PRINCE, F.B.O.A., F.S.M.C., F.R.M.S., F.Z.S. Pp. viii + 155, with 89 illustrations. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1950. 20s.

This small volume supplements the author's previous treatise on the subject with details of improved techniques and newer materials used in making artificial eyes.

Advances in this branch of ophthalmology, since the use of plastics in place of glass has become generally accepted, have concerned, largely, surgical techniques employing a suitable prosthesis to produce a mobile eye of improved appearance. It is less surprising, therefore, to find illustrations of surgical procedures in a work of this character addressed primarily to technicians.

H.E.H.

### WORTH AND CHAVASSE'S SQUINT

By T. KEITH LYLE, C.B.E., M.A., M.D., M.Chir., M.R.C.P., F.R.C.S. 8th Edition. Pp. x + 319, with 208 illustrations. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1950. 35s.

More than ten years have elapsed since the last edition of this work appeared and a further edition has been generally felt to be overdue. In the interval Chavasse's conceptions of the origin of strabis-