

Book Reviews

ANAESTHETIC ACCIDENTS

By V. KEATING, M.B., B.Ch., D.A., F.F.A.R.C.S.
Pp. vi + 261, with 13 diagrams. London:
Lloyd-Luke Ltd. 1956. 25s.

Dr. V. Keating's book, 'Anaesthetic Accidents,' is a good one and should be of value to all those interested in the science of anaesthesia.

The author describes the complications which may arise with general and regional anaesthesia, including those from adoption of various positions on the table and from use of endotracheal tubes and relaxants.

Where necessary, detailed physiological accounts are given.

Although a chapter is devoted to neurological complications, no mention is made of the dangers of administering a general anaesthetic to subjects with raised intracranial pressure.

An account of the significance of blood electrolyte changes and how they may lead to complications would have increased the usefulness of this already valuable book.

NEW PATHWAYS IN CELLULAR PATHOLOGY

By G. R. CAMERON, M.B., D.Sc., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.
Pp. vii + 90, with 42 illustrations. London:
Edward Arnold Ltd. 1956. 16s.

Professor Cameron's department at University College Hospital, London, has for many years been concerned with cellular pathology and numerous papers have been produced by it, mainly in the *Journal of Pathology and Bacteriology*. The present monograph is an expansion of two lectures given, based largely on work by Dr. J. D. Judah and his team, and inspired by Professor Cameron's own monumental work 'Pathology of the Cell.'

The introductory chapter makes it clear that the theme is taken from Virchow, the father of cellular pathology, developed and enlarged by Paul Ehrlich, the early master of cyto-chemistry, and followed up in virus experiments by another Australian, Burnet. The problems of the cell membrane and cell surface are manifold, but the electron microscope, experiments involving haemolysis, and at the same time retention of the red cell envelope and pharmacological experiments have shed much light on it. The cytoplasm, the nucleus, mitochondria and microsomes are discussed in the succeeding chapters. The application of carbon tetrachloride, of dinitroresol, of Cl. Welchii toxin and tetanus toxin

as well as other drugs and the deprivation of vitamins are briefly sketched. The last chapter reconsiders general pathological processes such as cloudy swelling, hydropic degeneration, hyaline and fatty changes, mucoid and amyloid degeneration and cell regeneration.

Under Professor Cameron's guidance the new pathways in cellular pathology are certain to lead to a new bloom in pathology and to a renaissance of morphological and biochemical studies.

E.N.

THE CYTOLOGY OF EFFUSIONS IN THE PLEURAL, PERICARDIAL AND PERITONEAL CAVITIES

By A. I. SPRIGGS, D.M., M.R.C.P. Pp. 71, with 39 illustrations and 5 plates in colour. London: William Heinemann Ltd. 1957. 42s.

Based on the author's D.M. thesis and his experience of more than 1,000 cytological examinations of body fluids collected at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, the book is intended for use along with standard atlases of haematology.

The history of cytodagnosis is briefly sketched; it only covers about 90 years. Dr. Spriggs prefers the Romanowsky methods of staining for cytology to any other method, including that of Papanicolaou, and this reviewer is pleased to see this, as he has for more than ten years used Leishman's stain for this type of work and found it very satisfactory.

The cells of effusions are described as seen in air-dried films. Effusions in non-malignant conditions, in leukaemia and the reticuloses and in malignant cases are clearly described. The author obviously found difficulty in adequately discussing malignant cells, but it is good to see that unlike many standard textbooks and many teachers, particularly of morbid anatomy, he does not give a prominent place to mitotic figures. One should never forget that they occur also normally, and not only in tumour tissue.

In an appendix techniques for cytological examination of fluids are recommended. These two statements should be remembered by all concerned in collecting or processing such material: (1) Clots make cytological examination impossible, (2) oxalated specimens are useless.

There is also a good bibliography, and there are 12 good colour plates and 40 mostly very instructive photomicrographs.

This book deserves a place in every clinical laboratory.

E.N.