

arrangement, however, makes for rapidity and ease of reference.

The text is dogmatic. Too dogmatic where the treatment of pulp loss is concerned. Loss of the special sense organs in the pulp of the finger can never be replaced by a thenar flap. In the rare case where closure by split skin graft or shortening of the distal phalanx do not apply, an island pedicle graft is the only means of restoring anything like normal sensation.

The statement that occupational therapy has very little place to offer in the treatment of minor hand injuries fails to acknowledge the help that a well-equipped centre can provide in re-acclimatising an injured hand to the feel of machinery.

To lay too much stress on points such as these would be unnecessarily carping, since through its didactic approach the book derives much of its value. Equipped with this the Casualty Surgeon cannot go far wrong, and it should help materially to reduce the growing wastage of man-hours resulting from injuries of the hand.

ANTIBIOTICS IN MEDICINE

British Medical Bulletin, 1960, Vol. 16, No. 1, 88 pages. 20s.

During the past 15 years the number of clinically useful antibiotics has increased from one, penicillin, to about 15. The newer antibiotics have been discovered almost exclusively by vast efforts and expenditure by the pharmaceutical industry. Their chief aims have been to find substances which will control infections hitherto unresponsive to chemotherapy, to find drugs which will deal with organisms that have become resistant to available antibiotics, and to find less toxic compounds.

The present number of the *British Medical Bulletin* is a survey of all the important aspects of the antibiotic field and, to indicate its scope, I can do no better than give the titles and authors of all the contributors to this excellent volume.

There is an introduction by the scientific editor, Professor L. P. Garrod. Then follow sections on: Chemistry and classification of antibiotics, by E. P. Abraham and G. G. F. Newton. The nature of the selective toxicity of antibiotics, by E. F. Gale. Drug resistance and mechanisms for its development, by Mr. R. Pollock. The principles of therapeutic use of antibiotics, by L. P. Garrod and E. F. Scowen. The laboratory control of antibiotic therapy, by J. C. Gould. The pharmacology of antibiotics, by J. M. Robson and G. A. H. Buttle. The rationale and management of combined therapy, by B. W. Lacey. Preventive use of antibiotics in medicine, by E. G. L. Bywaters. Preventive use of antibiotics in surgery, by Gerard W. Taylor. The chemotherapy of tuberculosis, with special reference to patients whose bacilli are resistant to the standard drugs, by John Crofton. The treatment of bacterial endocarditis, by A. Eric Dormer. The dangers of antibiotic treatment, by

D. M. Dunlop and J. McC. Murdoch. Clinical problems of drug-resistant pathogens, by E. J. L. Lowbury. Laboratory uses of antibiotics, by Robert Cruickshank. The search for new antibiotics, by A. H. Campbell.

This number of the *British Medical Bulletin* is an outstanding contribution to the literature and views on antibiotics and should be read by everyone who wants to bring himself up to date in this most important branch of medicine.

EARLY DIAGNOSIS

By various authors. Edited by HENRY MILLER, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. 400. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 25s.

This book contains 25 chapters, each written by a different author, and a very good index. It was an excellent idea to invite authors having such widely varying interests to contribute: among them are to be noted two General Practitioners and seven Professors, surely an unusually broad spectrum of authority to be found within the covers of a single volume! Lord Cohen contributes a characteristically vigorous and practical introductory chapter entitled 'On Early Diagnosis' which sets the standard for the book as a whole. In his Preface, Dr. Miller says that it has been written for the general practitioner, who bears special responsibility for the early recognition of important disease. In fact, both junior house officers and consultants will read the book with profit. Such a masterly exposition of sheer clinical sense, for instance, as Professor Dunlop's four pages on the diagnosis of Hyperthyroidism, is hard to equal anywhere.

The essential facts about the early manifestations of a very large number of clinical conditions are given in this book, put in a new and stimulating form, so that even those well acquainted with them will find an interest in this variation of the usual text book presentation. The book may therefore be strongly recommended not only to those engaged in the day-to-day practice of their profession, but to anyone seeking to revise his knowledge or to sharpen his clinical wits—to all clinicians, in fact.

THE FUNCTIONS OF THE ENDOCRINE GLANDS

By P. F. HALL, M.D., M.R.A.C.P. Pp. 290, figs. 77. Sydney: Horwitz Publications Inc.; London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd.; Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company.

There has long been a need for a short book of this type, and the author is to be congratulated on the excellent way in which he has dealt with it. This book is not so specialized and abstruse that it cannot be read by the practising clinician with no great knowledge of physiology and endocrinology; it is not packed with so many formulae, references