

laboratory animals and of the naturally occurring tumours of frogs, birds and mammals, including cattle now known to be associated with viruses. He also describes, in even greater detail, the diseases with which he has himself been most closely associated, the virus-induced murine leukemias and tumours. Dr. Gross writes simply, clearly and with great enthusiasm and every chapter is of absorbing interest.

The general medical reader will find the simple technical descriptions of the handling of filtrates most helpful in understanding this immensely complex field and will be especially grateful to Dr. Gross for explaining the origins and characteristics of the now famous strains of laboratory mice that figure so largely in modern research. It is a pity that the chapters dealing with the author's own studies are the least satisfactory. This is, no doubt, because Dr. Gross is so deeply involved in this growing point of tumour virology that he is unable to survey the subject with the necessary detachment.

A word of warning is necessary to the non-specialist. Dr. Gross is convinced from his enormous experience that viruses are likely to be the commonest single cause of malignancy in animals, and as a working hypothesis he would suggest that there is no reason to exclude human malignant disease. He explains the action of chemical carcinogens and of ionizing radiations on the basis of the unmasking of latent viruses, and he makes no real attempt to explain how the presence of the virus within the cell could induce malignant change. He may yet prove to be right, but many would feel that his views are further ahead than the facts so far available allow. Few clinicians would, for example, agree with him that women with a family history of cancer should refrain from breast-feeding their children. Nevertheless, this is an entrancing book. It is well produced and lavishly illustrated, and there are excellent photographs not only of the viruses, but of their discoverers. The key references are given at the end of each chapter and there is a useful author index and an adequate general index.

### Problems of Pulmonary Circulation

Ciba Foundation Study Group No. 8. Edited by A. V. S. DE REUCK, M.Sc., D.I.C., A.R.C.S., and M. O'CONNOR, B.A. Pp. viii + 96, illustrated. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1961. 30s.

In the last few years the pulmonary circulation has been intensively investigated from many standpoints. On November 18, 1960, the Ciba Foundation held a study group devoted to the topic in honour of Professor G. Liljestrand. The participants included animal physiologists, clinical physiologists, clinicians, radiologists and pathologists, interested both in the circulatory and pulmonary problems of the lesser circulation. The papers and discussions have been published and edited with the customary skill of the Ciba Foundation and form a very useful and inexpensive source of reference.

### Symposium on Anticoagulant Therapy

Report of the Proceedings. Edited by PROFESSOR SIR G. W. PICKERING, M.A., D.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. xii + 284. London: Harvey and Blythe. 1961. 21s.

Anonymous hosts made possible the gathering of 55 distinguished participants. The result is a most interesting and stimulating collection of fact and opinion. Of necessity the number of aspects considered is limited. Notable omissions include heparin and the correction of the deficiencies induced by anticoagulant drugs. Among the discernible trends are the decline in popu-

larity of the quick one-stage prothrombin test for controlling treatment, the gradual recognition of the patient likely to be most benefited and the slow but sure progress of therapeutic fibrinolysis. We are grateful that the proceedings of the symposium have been made generally available at a most reasonable price.

### Pathology of the Nervous System: A Student's Introduction

J. H. BIGGART, C.B.E., M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P. Third edition. Pp. xii + 368, with 239 illustrations, 22 coloured plates. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1961. 40s.

The appearance of a third edition of this book is a measure of its tried and proven value. It is simple and clear in exposition, beautifully illustrated and admirably produced. The field covered is wide without undue emphasis or imbalance. Though some problems such as the relationship between vascular occlusions and cerebral infarctions are oversimplified, it is because the book is what it sets out to be, a student's introduction, which avoids confusing the beginner with a welter of evidence and conflicting views. It will no doubt continue to enjoy its well-established reputation.

### Carcinoma of the Colon

EDWARD G. MUIR, M.S., F.R.C.S. Pp. vii + 181, illustrated. London: Edward Arnold. 1961. 42s.

This monograph, it is stated, has been written essentially for surgical postgraduates and young surgeons in training. Despite this the book contains nothing that is new and cannot be found in any one of the several larger current works on this subject. Nevertheless, the book may have a value in that it re-emphasizes yet again all the well-known difficulties and pitfalls surrounding the management of carcinoma of the colon. The various factors resulting in delays in diagnosis are very well discussed and once again the varied symptomatology of colonic cancer, especially that on the right side, emphasized by an impressive list of patients, many of whom had had a negative barium meal or cholecystogram during the early part of their illness. Similar examples can be seen almost daily in any general surgical out-patient department and, despite all the well-known clichés of surgical teaching, it is an astounding fact that 20% of all patients attending hospital with cancer of the rectum have never had a rectal examination; the figure also accords with the experience of most surgeons interested in this subject. The plea for the avoidance of a colostomy where possible, especially as a means of palliation, is timely.

The book is reasonably priced, is easy to read and the diagrams are clear and well reproduced.

### Problems of Infection, Immunity and Allergy in Acute Radiation Diseases

N. N. KLEMPARSKAYA, O. G. ALEKSEYEVA, R. PETROV and V. F. SOSOVA. Translated from the Russian. Pp. viii + 165, illustrated. Oxford, London, New York and Paris: Pergamon Press. 1961. 50s.

The amount of information made available to Western readers by this recent translation from the Russian encourages one to hope that there will be more to follow. If the information does not follow the current patterns of research outlined in our own journals, it is neither surprising nor disadvantageous, and the quantity of material reviewed is likely to be extremely valuable to workers engaged in radiobiological and immunological research.

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