

by the Association of Clinical Pathologists. It might be worth while for the editor to consider this possibility, reserving the book for reviews rather than recipes, but there is no doubt that in its present form this is a book to be bought for the clinical laboratory.

Clinical Genodermatology

THOMAS BUTTERWORTH, A.B., M.D., MED.SC.M. and LYON P. STREAN, D.D.S., M.S.C., PH.D., F.A.P.H.A., F.A.A.A.S. Introduction by James E. Wright. Pp. xxi + 221. 99 illustrations. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1962. 108s.

The publication in 1933 of Cockayne's 'Inherited Abnormalities of the Skin and its Appendages' was the most important landmark in the study of the genetic factor in dermatology. Unfortunately it has been out of print for many years. Since then the only major work of reference has been Touraine's book published in French in 1955. A good new book on the subject in English is much needed and this volume is a not unworthy attempt to fill the gap. It starts with a valuable nine-page introduction by the Professor of Genetics in the Pennsylvania State University in which the elements of genetics are clearly and simply explained and the most important technical terms are defined. The body of the book consists of brief illustrated descriptions of the familial disorders of the skin and mucous membranes including a simple account of their modes of hereditary transmission and a very brief bibliography. Wisely they are arranged morphologically rather than aetiologically. The text is good and most of the black-and-white photographs are useful. A number of genodermatoses which should have been described are omitted. These include the Naegeli type of incontinentia pigmenti, Rud's syndrome, and some of the rarer varieties of epidermolysis bullosa. In particular, Touraine's ideas of poly-fibromatosis and polykeratosis ought to have been discussed. The index is satisfactory. The volume is attractively produced. It may be that the greatest problem the authors had to face was one of length. For a book of this size it is very good. Dermatologists would probably have preferred a longer account of the genetics of each disorder with less general description but for those who are not specialists the proportions used may well be more helpful. This is a valuable work of reference and no dermatologist nor medical library can afford to be without it. Great skill in the writing has made a difficult subject seem simple. Further editions are likely to be needed and it will then be possible to include those syndromes which have, so far, been omitted.

Inhalation Anesthetics and Carbohydrate Metabolism

NICHOLAS M. GREENE, M.D. Pp. ix + 143. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1963. 56s.

The scope and style of this book can be illustrated by a quotation from the preface: 'Because anesthesia is one of the most frequent (and potentially dangerous) acute clinical stresses of iatrogenic origin, the purpose of the present monograph is to summarize the information available on the status of carbohydrate metabolism during clinical anesthesia. This is preceded by a review of present-day concepts of normal carbohydrate metabolism, a review which is not intended to be encyclopedic but which hopefully will be of value to one out of touch with recent developments in biochemistry'. Most of the commonly used inhalation agents are discussed, although chloroform and ethyl chloride are not included, being considered by the author to be too infrequently used. Altogether there are 113 text pages.

References are liberally provided throughout the text and individual articles are very often discussed, sometimes in finicky detail; but there is no attempt at general discussion and few positive conclusions are drawn. The problem of the relationship between the mode of action of inhalation anaesthetics and their effect on carbohydrate metabolism is deliberately avoided. At a more practical level, many common disorders of carbohydrate metabolism which give concern to the anaesthetist in his choice of drugs receive scant mention: for example, the only entry under diabetes mellitus in the index reads 'See insulin'—and the text is no more informative. Islet cell tumours of the pancreas do not appear to be mentioned at all.

The author's presentation does nothing to enliven a subject which most clinical anaesthetists will regard as inherently dull. Although no reader will doubt Dr. Greene's sincere belief in the importance of his subject, many will feel that he has failed to convey precisely wherein this importance lies.

Typhoid Fever and Other Salmonella Infections

R. L. HUCKSTEP. Pp. 334, illustrated. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1962. 42s.

One might have imagined until recently that there was little new to be discovered or written about typhoid fever. It has for long appeared to be one of those uncomplicated and straightforward diseases of which the aetiology and pathology were known and accepted, the diagnosis relatively easy, and treatment simple and effective. Anybody holding these naive views will have to alter them radically as a result of two recent events. One is the publication of this excellent monograph, and the second is the Zermatt typhoid epidemic which has amply demonstrated that the disease is no respecter of reputations for cleanliness, that large epidemics may follow apparently minor lapses of routine, and that chloramphenicol is not the universal panacea.

This book, by this unhappy coincidence of events, is extraordinarily timely. It is based upon a very extensive experience of typhoid in East Africa, the statistics of which are set out in a series of appendices. All aspects of the disease are covered from a short historical introduction to a full account of the medical and surgical complications. The sections on laboratory diagnosis include original work on the diazo test in the urine which is shown to be a most useful rapid screening test for the disease. Each chapter has its bibliography and the fact that some references are rather old is at once a tribute to the author's industry and an indication that the recent literature of the disease is somewhat scanty. There is very little to criticize in the text, but one wonders now whether intraperitoneal drips in children are really the best way of parenteral rehydration, when the intravenous drip technique can be acquired quite quickly. There are short chapters also on the paratyphoid fevers and on Salmonella infections, but these are necessarily less comprehensive.

This is altogether a most admirable work, illustrated by most pleasing drawings and charts by Mr. Peter Cull, as well as photographs and X-ray plates, and is thoroughly to be recommended to all who may encounter the disease, and those who would like to prepare themselves in case they do.

Modern Trends in Gynaecology—3

Edited by R. J. KELLAR. Pp. vii + 203, illustrated. London: Butterworths. 1963. 50s.

The new format makes this new edition most companionable. The proposal to publish more frequently, though giving more work to the compilers, will enable