

what may follow if we become able to control and to retard the process of ageing beggars the imagination.

### Salicylates

An International Symposium sponsored by the Empire Rheumatism Council. Edited by A. ST. J. DIXON, B. K. MARTIN, M. J. H. SMITH and P. H. N. WOOD. Pp. xv + 310, illustrated. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1963. 45s.

This is a report of the proceedings of an International Symposium on Salicylates held at the Postgraduate Medical School, London, in September, 1962, which was designed to bring together clinicians and those engaged in research in this limited but important field. It consists of more than 40 papers contributed by active workers in different scientific disciplines from the U.K., the U.S.A., and the Continent. There were five sessions devoted to the distribution of Salicylates in the body; the effects of Salicylates on metabolism, epithelial surfaces and inflammation; and the toxicity of Salicylates. Following every second or third paper there is a brief summary of the subsequent discussions which are well edited and which greatly enhance the value of the book.

Like all such Symposia the value of individual contributions, some of which are highly technical, will depend on the background of the reader but there is much of interest for the biochemist, pharmacologist, clinician and those engaged in the pharmaceutical industry.

The clinical uses of Salicylates were not discussed directly, though frequently referred to, but the practising physician will find much useful information on the intriguing problem of gastro-intestinal hæmorrhage. There is a valuable paper by Winters on acid-base disturbances of salicylate intoxication in childhood, a possible omission in the symposium being the absence of a similar account of toxic effects in the adult. This is followed by a paper on the use of the artificial kidney in salicylate poisoning by Parsons and again one would comment on the absence of an authoritative account of alternative methods of treatment, with particular reference to forced alkaline diuresis.

This book should be seen by all rheumatologists, pædiatricians and physicians who prescribe large doses of these drugs, and it should prove to be a valuable starting point for anyone contemplating research on any aspect of Salicylates; he might find it had already been done.

### Partial Gastrectomy, Complications and Metabolic Consequences

Edited by PROF. F. A. R. STAMMERS and J. A. WILLIAMS. Pp. ix + 309, illustrated. London: Butterworths. 1963. £4.

So long as surgeons are committed to removing more than half a man's stomach to treat a small mucosal defect farther down the alimentary tract so long will they benefit from reading this small book. They will find nothing in it about the technical steps of the operation but enough about the morbidity to make them pause for thought; it is estimated for instance that taking the country as a whole some 2,300 patients annually are, for one reason or another, disappointed with their gastrectomies. These reasons are dealt with in turn, beginning with Professor Stammers' excellent

account of the mechanical complications of the operation and continuing with Mr. Williams' equally good account of the surgical physiology of the stomach. From here on the book is more suitable for postgraduate rather than undergraduate readers for it deals, often in some detail, with the effect of operations on both the gastric and jejunal mucosæ, postgastrectomy anæmia, bone disease and malabsorption.

Minor features which are to be welcomed are the giving of references in full, the consistent use of the metric system and the commendable absence of misprints (apart from the use of the adjectival form of 'mucus' when the predicative spelling is indicated). The writing, the figures and the photographs are clear—indeed the writing is so clear as to render figures 45 and 46 and Table II superfluous, but it is doubtful whether their omission in the next edition would make much difference to the price, which is £4.

Gastroenterology affords an excellent meeting ground for surgeons and physicians and the dyspeptic citizens of Birmingham should count themselves fortunate in having such an harmonious and enquiring team available for their guidance; now that they have published this book it is to be hoped that the benefits resulting from this collaboration will spread much farther afield.

### Modern Trends in Immunology

Edited by ROBERT CRUICKSHANK. Pp. vii + 263, illustrated. London: Butterworths. 1963. 65s.

This is an excellent volume which brings together the wide variety of techniques and concepts of immunology which has become a field incorporating many disciplines varying from genetics to protein chemistry. The reader will find authoritative essays on recent developments in immunology and especially valuable are the critical summaries of what has been learned from individual techniques, the extent of their limitations and to what use will they be put in the future.

The specific subjects covered are antigens, antibodies and their reactions, natural and acquired immunity, immunization, hypersensitivity, autoimmunity and transplantation. This book succeeds in presenting to the non-specialists reader the modern trends of this rapidly-developing subject.

It is well produced and clearly illustrated.

### The Development of the Brain and its Disturbance by Harmful Factors

B. N. KLOSOVSKII. Translated from the Russian by Basil Haigh. Pp. xiii + 275, illustrated. Oxford. London, New York and Paris: Pergamon Press. 1963. 70s.

The outstanding merit of this book is its lucid expression of fundamental facts about the development of the brain. Its recapitulation of the essentials of embryology which we have long forgotten is a masterpiece of clarity and brevity.

The account of the author's own studies of children whose brains have been damaged by a variety of noxious agents is full of interesting information. Some caution about the conclusions is however necessary as the author does not seem to be aware of the problems of observer-error and bias and the need for control when assessing performance in children.

The book will be of great value to pædiatricians and neurologists and can be recommended.