

## Reviews

### TUBERCULOSIS

*Modern Practice in Tuberculosis.* Edited by T. Holmes Sellors, M.A., D.M., M.Ch., F.R.C.S., and J. L. Livingstone, M.D., F.R.C.P. (In two volumes. Vol. 1, Pp. 355; 104 illustrations, 1 coloured plate; Vol. 2, Pp. 441, 159 illustrations, 2 coloured plates. £7 7s.) London: Butterworth and Co. (Publishers) Ltd. 1952.

The editors wish to make it clear that this is not a comprehensive textbook but a series of selected sections or chapters, each written by an expert in his or her branch. With the way thus cleared the 39 authors range over a wide field, which includes morbidity and mortality statistics, laboratory methods of examination, the administration of a chest clinic, rehabilitation, tuberculosis colonies, and chest radiology. In the second volume attention is paid to the more clinical aspects of the disease, and there are sections on the various aspects of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. We find here interpolated an excellent article on sarcoidosis, but why a disease of unknown aetiology is included in a book on tuberculosis is not explained.

In a brief review it is not possible to do justice to the merit of each section, but if asked to select one or two of outstanding value I should choose, on the surgical side, the section on excision of lung, which is written with the clarity of the skilled teacher, and on the medical side the dissertation on B.C.G. vaccination.

Reductions of x-ray films, reproduced in book form, are notoriously unsatisfactory, since they fail to show the necessary detail. In Volume 2, 146 pages, or one-third of the volume, are given up to x-ray film reductions. Further, some of these are of such quality that they appear to illustrate Dr. Simon's remark in his chapter on radiology, in which he deprecates the production of "grey and contrastless" films. Most readers of this book will be familiar with the x-ray appearances of the chest in pulmonary tuberculosis and will weary of turning over page after page of x-ray reductions. The binding of the volumes sent for review does not appear to be adequate, as four of the pages were already completely adrift and others showed unmistakable evidence of shortly attaining their freedom.

These two volumes will form an admirable companion to the standard textbooks on tuberculosis, and their value is enhanced by the inclusion of articles on the non-pulmonary varieties of the disease.

G. E. BEAUMONT.

### CYTOLOGY

*Cytology and Cell Physiology.* Edited by Geoffrey H. Bourne. Second edition. (Pp. 524; illustrated. £2 10s.) Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1951.

*Elements of Bacterial Cytology.* By Professor Georges Knaysi. Second edition. (Pp. 375; illustrated. £2.) New York: Comstock Publishing Company, Inc. London: Constable and Co. 1951.

*Cytology and Cell Physiology* is a revision of the work published by 11 collaborators in 1942. It might be more exactly described with a revised title as a "Symposium on current problems of physical, chemical, and physiological technique in the study of cells as components of animal tissues." The book is concerned not so much with the more important facts we know as with the less important facts we are not sure about. And, since it went to the press four years ago, the doubtful fringe of supposition has shifted. The Golgi bodies occupy a central position in the book and enjoy a whole column of references in the index. They might now be thought less important than the chromosomes. The editor illustrates his Golgiology with what appear to be 30 photographs, 10 of them retouched, and 100 other figures. But he has to conclude with an "addendum" in small type to the effect that some well-

qualified people do not believe that the Golgi apparatus really exists. Golgiogenesis having given rise to Golgiocyto-architecture (to use the recommended terms) dissolves at last in a grateful Golgiolysis.

It is to be regretted that this kind of lucubration should be bound in the same volume with competent accounts of serious matters such as microscopy, tissue culture, and enzyme systems. It is also to be regretted that the working of the cell as a whole, which has been revealed during the last 20 years by genetic experiment and chromosome and nuclear studies, should be scarcely hinted at. The task of uniting biochemistry and cytology, to which Professor Peters devotes a very sensible foreword, demands a knowledge and coherence that is lacking in this book.

Dr. Knaysi's work is, like the symposium, concerned with technique rather than theory. Indeed, that is no doubt what he means by "bacterial cytology" as opposed to "bacteriology." Further, when he explains that, in his book, "controversial views are fairly presented, discussed and evaluated, not so much on the plausibility of a view in the author's opinion as on the merit of the evidence presented . . ." no doubt again he wishes to say that technique means more to him than theory. Hitherto this view has carried bacteriology a long way. But its present stage is still only to be compared with that of non-bacterial cytology some 60 years ago. At just such a moment a few words of theory would not be out of place. We should like to know the author's own opinion on certain general questions, on what the bacteria are, and why; how their bodies are composed, and how related to their functions; whether anything is known of their breeding habits and genetic properties which may be related to their forms. The author, however, proceeds with bacteria like his English brethren in their larger field, and on the third page he is already broaching the electron microscope. He illustrates his text with a great number of electron photographs. Fewer photographs, better described, with numbering and magnifications, would indeed be more successful. Economy is troublesome to an author, but it saves the reader time as well as expense. The book is therefore inevitably cytology for the cytologist. As such, its electron photographs undoubtedly prepare the way for great advances in the study of bacteria.

C. D. DARLINGTON.

### OCULAR SURGERY

*Surgery of the Oblique Muscles of the Eye.* By Walter H. Fink, M.D. (Pp. 350; 93 illustrations, including 18 in colour. £3 3s.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1951.

It is only recently that extensive surgical measures of correction have been performed on the oblique muscles of the eye. It has long been known that many cases of ocular deviation and squint are due to irregular action or an upset in the balance of these muscles, but hitherto, apart from the simple technical procedure of myectomy of the inferior oblique muscle, the correction of these deformities has generally been carried out indirectly by a surgical attack on the rectus muscles. This procedure is by no means ideal, since it necessitates alleviating the worst effects of one deformity by crippling a normal muscle. The reason for this hesitancy has been the difficulty in obtaining a clear surgical approach to the insertions of the oblique muscles into the posterior aspect of the globe—and knowledge of the anatomy of this region has hitherto been somewhat vague—and the technical difficulties of undertaking delicate surgical procedures in a field so difficult of access. It is true that pioneers such as the late John Wheeler, of New York, had two decades ago successfully overcome many of the difficulties, but to-day the average surgeon is just beginning to tackle the problem.

In this volume Dr. W. H. Fink has performed a useful service by gathering together the known facts of the anatomy and physiology of the oblique muscles, their congenital aberrations (which are common), the clinical occurrence