

prising that at the present time some who have performed large numbers of keratoplasties would hesitate to advise surgical intervention on an eye with acuity as low as 6/36.

The biological problems which this book ably discusses are as yet far from fully understood, and provide a profitable field for research in future years. Mr. Leigh's new work is well produced and profusely illustrated, and is a valuable and creditable contribution to British ophthalmology. It is a delightful book to read.

HAROLD RIDLEY.

Blood Diseases in Children

Blood Diseases of Infancy and Childhood. 2nd edition. By Carl H. Smith, M.A., M.D. (Pp. 800 + xxiv; illustrated. £8 5s.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1966.

The first edition of this book, which appeared six years ago, soon earned the reputation of being the best book extant on the subject. The second edition will certainly retain this reputation. A good deal has happened in haematology in six years, and this new edition has taken note of all important changes in the description of disease, diagnostic methods, and means of treatment.

Much attention has been given to the hereditary haemoglobinopathies, and 85 pages are devoted to the subject. The importance of interchange between the maternal and foetal circulations now has a chapter, and the differential diagnosis of jaundice in the neonatal period is dealt with in necessary detail. The important iron-deficiency anaemia has a revised chapter, and Professor Smith points out that "iron-dextran has been restored as a safe and effective antianaemia agent." The chapter on blood coagulation has been thoroughly revised and is fully up to date, using the international nomenclature for clotting factors up to factor XIII, the fibrin-stabilizing factor. Current views on the interrelations between the factors are illustrated by informative diagrams, and the newer information about von Willebrand's disease, which is not uncommon in children, is fully described. A special chapter is devoted to the treatment of leukaemia; the newer agents are described, and their various advantages and disadvantages are set out in tabular form. The author points out the great improvement in survival and clinical remission that has been obtained by the use of the combination of steroids and antimetabolites, particularly in children with lymphatic leukaemias, but he admits that we are still far from cure or even stable control for a period spreading over years. As in the first edition, illustrations mainly in black-and-white, with a few colour plates, are used to show clinical phenomena; there are a few illustrations of blood cells and tissue changes, but no atlas type plates are provided. The bibliography has been brought up to date by the addition of some 1,500 references. Anyone who uses the first edition will be well repaid by replacing it with this 1966 version.

M. C. G. ISRAËLS.

Symposium on Nuclear Medicine

Recent Advances in Nuclear Medicine. Edited by Millard N. Croll, M.D., and Luther W. Brady, M.D. (Pp. 260 + xiii; illustrated. \$12.50.) New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts. 1966.

This book is based upon a symposium of the same title which was held in March 1965 at the Hahnemann Medical College, Philadelphia. There are 41 contributors, all except one being from centres in the U.S.A., so that the book is heavily biased towards recent advances in the subject in the United States. The authorship is authoritative and the subject matter ranges broadly, but not exhaustively, over the diagnostic applications of radioactive pharmaceuticals.

The material is divided into four sections: selected topics relating to the complex instrumentation inseparable from a serious application of nuclear medicine; dynamic function studies; radioactively labelled materials and their dosimetry; and the visualization of organs. The last of these sections is much the longest, occupying a little more than half the book. No place is given to exclusively in-vitro radioactive clinical studies, and little to the clinical application of compartment studies and to certain other topics often classed as part of nuclear medicine.

It is quite probable that a book of this or similar title published in Britain would have included a prefatory explanation of "nuclear medicine." That this has not been considered necessary here is a reflection of the divergent attitudes to the subject and its designation in Britain compared with overseas. Those in the field are aware of a number of monographs recently published including the words "nuclear medicine" in their title, and one can readily call to mind five widely read medical journals which also include "nuclear medicine" on their title page. Thus, taking a world view rather than a British view, no explanation is necessary. A definition, probably not universally acceptable, appears, however, at the beginning of the last chapter.

In this rapidly expanding but new subject there are many pitfalls of terminology, and the inappropriate use of a word or the ill-advised coining of a new word can be a source of continual embarrassment throughout the later history of the subject. For example, one of the chapters dealing with the localization of brain lesions introduces the term "isotope encephalogram" in its title, but the subject matter is the familiar one of scanning, which is called such in the next chapter. It is misleading to choose already well-established medical terms to describe something quite different in some other branch of medicine. This particular choice is especially unfortunate, since, within the field covered by this book, the term "gamma encephalogram" now has a particular connotation in the European literature. Much the same criticism could be levelled at the use of the word "renocystogram" in the chapter beginning at page 20.

To those whose work lies in this field the book will be a valuable reference volume. It will also be rewarding for more general medical readers and will give them an insight into the immense strides made in recent years in the diagnostic use of radioactive isotopes and labelled compounds. Specialties as widely

different as neurosurgery and rheumatology or urology and cardiology have all felt the impact of nuclear medicine, and this book will have something of interest to offer every medical reader.

E. S. WILLIAMS.

Social and Personal Problems

Psychological Principles Appropriate to Social and Clinical Problems. By J. C. Raven. (Pp. 187 + xx. 25s.) London: H. K. Lewis. 1966.

This book, written by Mr. Raven on his retirement as director of psychological research at the Crichton Royal Hospital, describes an independent and creative psychologist's conclusions about crucial problems and growing points in psychiatry. Non-specialists will find it an absorbing account of a career in clinical research.

The author is internationally celebrated for his intelligence test, the famous "Raven's Matrices." Disclaiming any marked originality, indeed insisting that all advances stretch back into the past, he describes how his colleague C. G. Spearman used to put up charts of geometrical figures and ask students what general concepts governed each chart. It occurred to Raven to take out one figure from each series, and test a person's coherent judgement and orderly perception by asking him to fill in the blank space.

Use of the matrices test showed that by the age of 14 a person's trainability has reached its maximum; ability to understand a new method of thinking, to adopt new methods of working, or even to adjust to a new environment steadily decreases after the age of 20 years. This finding is particularly relevant to contemporary circumstances of redeployment in industry. In contrast to this early maturation and progressive decline of perception and judgement, by developing a separate vocabulary test (the widely used Mill Hill test, which assesses a person's present recall of verbal information) Raven accumulated evidence that the average person's ability to recall information matures more slowly. It increases steadily up to 25 to 27 years, then remains almost constant for the next 25 years, and declines only a little after that. Putting together the discrepant findings from the two test procedures Raven demonstrates that people are able to recall acquired information long after their capacity to adopt a new way of thinking has deteriorated. He deduces that recall requires surprisingly little mental activity.

The second part of his book will interest all who are concerned with methods for changing behaviour patterns. Raven supports a position of individuation; the patient must be helped to know and be himself. He regards psychotherapy as a form of education, helping the patient to grow up or overcome some social maladjustment or mental disability. He gives emphasis to those technical procedures which enable patients to express their feelings and to work out their social and personal difficulties. His freedom from established doctrine enabled him to reach a position of close contact with current workers who do not concentrate narrowly on "unconscious" determinants of behaviour,