

The book has a good index and excellent bibliography. The presentation is enhanced by the clear line-diagrams and two informative appendices on the symbols used in res-

piratory mechanics and the technique of electromyography. It is altogether a well-conceived presentation, which should be of interest to workers in a number of fields

ranging from physiology into chest disease, neurology, and rehabilitation.

D. HUGHES

Postgraduate Ophthalmology

Perspectives in Ophthalmology. Vol. 2. Ed. J. E. Winkelman and R. A. Crone. (Pp. 214; £5.65.) Excerpta Medica. 1970.

This book has two main sections. The first is devoted to genetics and ophthalmology and covers a wide spectrum in twelve separate papers. Corneal dystrophies, dysgenesis of the iris, tapeto-retinal and other dystrophies, homocysteineuria, hypo- and a-beta-

lipoproteinemia, optic atrophy, and chromosomal abnormalities are all described in relation to case reports. In the second section strabismus and related problems are discussed. Amblyopia is considered in several of its aspects, and there is a balanced essay on orthoptic exercises and what they may achieve.

This volume makes an excellent companion to the first and like its predecessor

is well illustrated and produced with great care. It is in fact the 1969 postgraduate course in ophthalmology organized in Amsterdam by the Netherlands Ophthalmological Society to mark the retirement of Professor A. Hagedoorn, and it maintains the standard we have learnt to expect when Dutch ophthalmologists put pen to paper.

STEPHEN MILLER

Museum Specimens

Anatomical Techniques. 2nd edn. D. H. Tompsett, B.Sc., Ph.D. (Pp. 283; £5.) E. & S. Livingstone. 1970.

The author, in his preface to this second edition, describes the book as a final report on his 25 years' work as prosector of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. The general layout is similar to that of the first edition, published in 1956. The first 90 pages are devoted to the preservation, dissection, and illustration of anatomical material. Here, quite apart from the general advice offered, it is most refreshing to find a graphic artist who is willing and able to commit to paper a working method for making illustrations of dissections.

The remainder of the book is devoted to descriptions of the newer methods, usually more sophisticated than the old, for pro-

ducing museum specimens. Much of this section is concerned with casting in cold-setting polyester resins by techniques which have been almost entirely developed by the author himself. The casting of each viscous is described in minute detail, yet every pitfall and potential failure has been dealt with in the text in such a manner that the reader is automatically encouraged to try this type of preparation for himself. Dr. Tompsett rightly insists that success in this work will be obtained only by total attention to minute detail. There are no short cuts, but the end in this case certainly justifies the means. The collection of casts in the museum of the Royal College of Surgeons bears eloquent testimony to the rewarding nature of this standard of workmanship. Some of these preparations—the injected lymphatics of the lower limb, for

example—must represent some of the most detailed and intricate macroscopic material ever produced, yet instructions for the preparation of injected lymphatics are dealt with almost routinely in this manual.

The book is excellently laid out and well illustrated, many of the photographs are in colour, and the illustrations of lung casts in particular are superb. These particular structures are notoriously difficult to photograph attractively. Finally, the end of the book contains a list of suppliers of various raw materials, a great relief to all who find the hunt for vendors of small quantities of highly specialized raw materials a time-consuming chore. The book is an essential acquisition for any establishment preparing biological material for display or teaching purposes.

DAVID BROWN

Mature Reflexions

The Ruminations of an Orthopaedic Surgeon. George Perkins, F.R.C.S. (Pp. 188; £1.50.) Butterworths. 1970.

This small book consists of the reflexions on professional themes of a retired orthopaedic surgeon about subjects which even a mature surgeon finds difficult. Among them are osteoarthritis, stiff joints, muscle idleness, cartilage in joints and in nose and ear, and interpretation of x-rays. Accidents are dis-

cussed, with particular reference to severe fractures in and about the major joints. With decisive competence the author draws attention to problems often neglected, and does so not in an academic manner but in one essentially practical. The reader will be amused by his cynical remarks on "ologists," and impressed by his surgical memory and his teaching methods expressly intended to make others think and store up knowledge. Although he uses some of the

principles of Hugh Owen Thomas, he makes no mention of him or Robert Jones.

There are reproductions of many radiographs which are well chosen to illustrate his thoughts. The book is certain to be of value to postgraduates and will provide good material for discussion groups, since it is provocative and gives considerable scope for disagreement among experts.

ST. J. D. BUXTON

BOOKS RECEIVED

Books noticed here may be reviewed later

Computers and Brains. Ed. J. P. Schade and J. Smith. (Pp. 263; £9.50.) Elsevier. 1970.

Atlas of Descriptive Histology. 2nd edn. Edward J. Reith, Ph.D., and Michael H. Ross, Ph.D. (Pp. 243; £5.35.) Harper & Row. 1971.

Genetic Counselling in Relation to Mental Retardation. Ed. J. M. Berg, M.Sc., M.B. (Pp. 34; 75p.) Pergamon Press. 1971.

Aldrin, Dieldrin, Endrin and Telodrin. K. W. Jager. (Pp. 234; £3.50.) Elsevier. 1970.

Upper Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage. Eddy D. Palmer, M.S., M.D. (Pp. 410; \$22.75.) Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

The Fluorination of Body Water. Charles Dillon, D.D.S. (Pp. 111; £1.75.) The Oban Times. 1970.

Scientific Reports on Industrial Hygiene and Occupational Diseases in Czechoslovakia. (Pp. 183; No price.) Institute of Industrial Hygiene and Occupational Diseases in Prague. 1970.

Operative Surgery. 2nd edn. Ed. Charles Rob, M.C., M.Chir., and Rodney Smith, M.S. (Pp. 400; £10.50.) Butterworths. 1970.

A.B.C. of Drug Addiction. Collected articles by various authors. (Pp. 93; 80p.) John Wright & Sons. 1970.

Army and Air Force Doctor. E. A. Lumley. (Pp. 159; £2.50.) Leo Cooper. 1971.

Frontiers of Radiation Therapy and Oncology. The Interrelationship of Surgery and Radiation Therapy in the Treatment of Cancer. Vol. 5. Ed. J. M. Vaeth. (Pp. 275; £7.90.) S. Karger. 1970.

Nucleic Acid Therapy in Aging and Degenerative Disease. Benjamin S. Frank, M.D. (Pp. 136; \$7.50.) Psychological Library Publishers. 1969.