

of subjects. There are chapters on changes in the skin, the bones, and the fundus in blood diseases, and on haematological techniques and paediatric haematology. There are other chapters on studies of iron metabolism with radioactive iron, blood pigments, and the metabolism of iron, copper, and porphyrin in infection. It is unlikely that these chapters will appeal to the same reader, for, to give one example, although Cartwright and Wintrobe's study of the anaemia of infection is of much theoretical interest, unlike Whipple's work on diet and Carl Moore's work on iron it has not yet re-established connexion with the clinic.

The production of the book and the individual essays are excellent, though one hankers after a few more illustrations and cannot help feeling that an article on the fundus without pictures is like Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark. As the editor speaks with special authority, it should be pointed out that his view that intravenous nitrogen mustard is the easiest, the quickest, and the most effective of all treatments for all forms of chronic leukaemia is not generally shared. The text references to Gardikas and Wilkinson (1951) and to Wilkinson (1953) show that first-class results can be obtained with nitrogen mustard in skilled hands, but that is not quite the same thing.

L. J. WITTS.

PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS

Pharmacology and Therapeutics. By Arthur Grollman, Ph.D., M.D., F.A.C.P. 2nd edition. (Pp. 866; 127 illustrations. 75s.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1954.

The appearance of the second edition of this textbook only three years after the first, which has been reprinted on three occasions, is a measure of its popularity. It is beautifully bound, printed, and illustrated, and is as up to date as any large book can be on a subject which is continually changing as the volume goes through the press. Perhaps the title *Pharmacology and Therapeutics* is a little misleading, for though the book indicates the therapeutic use to which the various drugs may be put it makes no claim to describe treatment in detail. Rather, it is a simple and admirable exposition of the pharmacology of drugs and the scientific basis of their use in medicine. A series of carefully selected references are given at the end of each section together with the *British Pharmacopoeia* preparations and doses, as well as those of the *U.S. Pharmacopoeia*. In an extensive sampling of the various chapters the only statement encountered to which any exception could be taken was that the principal use of gonadotrophic extracts was to be found in the treatment of cryptorchidism; and there is no mention of the use of oestrogens in the inhibition of lactation. The book replaces Professor Cushny's original text, and, though it remains severely critical and rigorously scientific, the great advances in drug therapy since Cushny's death have inevitably tintured with a splendid optimism the therapeutic nihilism which characterized his work. We feel sure that the old master would have approved this fine volume, which retains the arrangement, much of the flavour, and even some of the expressions that made his famous textbook so valuable to countless medical students and physicians.

D. M. DUNLOP.

PERIPHERAL VASCULAR DISEASES

Peripheral Vascular Diseases. By Edgar V. Allen, B.S., M.A., M.D., M.S., F.A.C.P., Nelson W. Barker, B.A., M.D., M.S., F.A.C.P., and Edgar A. Hines, jun., B.S., M.A., M.D., M.S., F.A.C.P. Second edition. (Pp. 825+xiii; illustrated. 91s.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1955.

The second edition of this textbook covers a wider range of subjects than the first edition. There are new chapters on purpura, aortography, and hypertensive ischaemic ulcers. Although not usually included in the range of peripheral vascular disease, a particularly informative and comprehensive account of coarctation of the aorta has now been added; it is perhaps surprising that patent ductus arteriosus

has been omitted from a text which is conceived on such broad lines, for these two conditions should surely have equal claims as anomalies of the great vessels. The chapters on surgical treatment now include additional sections on the techniques of sympathectomy, non-vascular operation for intermittent claudication, and the surgical treatment of varices, aortic aneurysm, and vascular injuries.

The arrangement of the second edition is similar to the first, but the additional chapters have been accommodated by the omission of some of the lengthy sections on special methods of study. Although there are 70 illustrations fewer than in the original edition it is still profusely and clearly illustrated; its chapters have an introductory biographical sketch, and all have a satisfactory bibliography. The text is everywhere readable and authoritative, and this volume must surely rank among the best contemporary medical textbooks.

WALLACE BRIGDEN.

LOCAL ANALGESIA

Nerve Blocks: A Manual of Regional Anesthesia for Practitioners of Medicine. By John Adriani, M.D. (Pp. 265; illustrated. 47s. 6d.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1954.

Nerve blocks are rarely used now in this country for major surgical anaesthesia. They are, however, of much interest and value in the diagnosis and treatment of a number of conditions, varying from peripheral vascular disease to inoperable carcinoma. The subject therefore remains an important one for surgeons and anaesthetists, and any new text deserves critical appraisal. The title of Dr. Adriani's book should have had the prefix "synopsis," since its contents, though comprehensive, are entirely tabulated and terse in style. The illustrations are mainly of the "thumb-nail" variety in black outline only, and, although few for a book on this subject, they are clear and helpful. The touchstone of worth of a book on local analgesia is how far it can replace actual practice and study of the blocks on patients. In this respect, because of the terse style and the somewhat sparse illustrations, the book falls short of the several monographs on local analgesia published since the end of the war. Nevertheless, much reliable information is given in condensed form; the examinee will be able to revise this branch of anaesthesia rapidly, and before performing a particular nerve block an operator can look up the salient points with ease. To these the book will commend itself and deserves popularity.

W. W. MUSHIN.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS

The Management of Acute Poliomyelitis. By C. P. Stott, S.R.N., and M. Fischer-Williams, M.R.C.P. (Ed.). Foreword by W. Ritchie Russell, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 99+xii; illustrated. 12s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. and S. Livingstone Ltd. 1955.

The authors of this book have compressed into its compass a wealth of detail. They have not limited teaching of the subject to the narrow confines suggested by the title, for it was obviously appreciated that the reader could benefit by some up-to-date information concerning the virus and its mode of spread. It is, however, essentially a practical book which takes the reader through successive steps in the understanding of the disease; what is more important, it gives in concise yet readable form amply illustrated instruction in current methods for the treatment of the disease in the acute and post-acute stages. It should be particularly useful in giving the nurse—and indeed the inexperienced doctor—a clear insight into important diagnostic points. The chapters on the physiology of respiration, the use of apparatus designed for the case with respiratory complications, and the nursing care of the patient requiring artificial respiration are particularly good. The book can be strongly recommended for inclusion in all nursing staff libraries.

W. HOWLETT KELLEHER.