U.S.S.R. than anywhere else. The translation, format, and illustrations are of a high order, and there is a useful bibliography of Russian work.

B. A. Cross.

**PSYCHO-ANALYTIC STUDY OF THE CHILD**


Once again this yearly volume lives up to its high reputation and earns the place it receives in every clinic where child psychotherapy is practised or the theory of the emotional development of the child is studied.

Apart from discussions that are of interest mainly to the psycho-analyst there are papers in this volume on blind children and their emotional development (Dorothy Burlingham), on adolescent moods (Edith Jacobson), on the effects of deprivation on infants, and on disturbances of integration in childhood (Liselotte Franki). In the clinical section Bertram Lewin discusses depression and Margret Mahler investigates the allied subject of separation and grief in infancy, and there are other investigations relating to the child’s reaction to loss. There is much else in these 25 chapters.

This year there is a useful index to the contents of all the sixteen volumes. This volume is well worth its high price.

D. W. Winnicott.

**IMMUNOLOGY OF RHEUMATISM**


The number and variety of immunological tests introduced in recent years for the diagnosis and study of rheumatic diseases have reached such proportions as to justify a monograph devoted to the immunological aspects of these diseases. Unfortunately the opportunity of producing a book whose value is commensurate with the size of the problem has not been taken by the present authors. One of the chief reasons for their failure is their attempt to force all rheumatic diseases into a single aetiological group with the haemolytic streptococcus as the primary agent. Though some years ago, especially in continental Europe, there was a tendency to regard rheumatic fever and rheumatoid arthritis as variants of the same fundamental disturbance, there is to-day no justification for this attitude and its retention can only tend to confusion, of which this book is an example.

Though on the theoretical aspects of the subject the authors have little to contribute, considerable and valuable detail is given for conducting the most helpful of the serological tests and for preparing antigenic fractions from streptococci and various tissues. The book is lavishly provided with tables but many of them are of questionable value. Table 20, for example, is devoted exclusively to a list of logarithms to base 10 for conversion of antistreptolysin titres to their logarithmic equivalents. The bibliography, which runs to 54 pages out of a total of 255 pages, should undoubtedly prove useful but is to some extent vitiated by the tendency of the authors to quote only the papers supporting their arguments, while ignoring all those that have failed to confirm these. Finally their acceptance of the rheumatoid factor as a monoclopolysaccharide derived from the breaking down of connective tissue, despite the mass of evidence showing that it is a macro-globulin antibody synthesized like other antibodies in the plasma cells, raises the question of the authors’ criteria of scientific proof.

L. E. Glynn.

**BLOOD PLATELETS**


This volume, the collected papers of fifty contributors to a Henry Ford Hospital international symposium held in 1960, covers present knowledge of the blood platelet in the greatest detail. Every aspect of the participation of these elements in physiological and pathological processes is reviewed by some author and discussed by other members of the symposium.

Of the origin and life-span of platelets much has become known since the introduction of isotopic and other methods of labelling, and these physiological aspects are fully treated. Much attention is given to their participation in blood coagulation and haemostasis, as well as to their role in the maintenance of the integrity of vascular endothelium. Several contributions are concerned with more recent additions to established views on thrombosis and clot retraction. Finally, several authors deal with immunological aspects of platelets and the antibody systems that they can activate. Though short, it is this section of the monograph that for most haematologists contains the most instructive new work.

No other present-day treatise dealing with platelets and their functions in health and disease approaches the present monograph either for wealth of information or as an authoritative work. For reference it will prove invaluable to haematologists, for each contribution is supplemented by a large and well-chosen modern bibliography.

G. Payling Wright.

**BOOKS RECEIVED**

Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.

*Surgical Practice of the Lahey Clinic.* By Members of the Staff of the Lahey Clinic, Boston. (Pp. 872+xvi; illustrated. £5 19s.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1962.


Without Prejudice

The remark I made recently about the Scots stealing a march on the English was a Sassenach's attempt to encourage the others. It was about the establishment of a Scottish Postgraduate Medical Association. I said nothing of the cluster of postgraduate institutes in London which are organized by the English—I mean British—Postgraduate Medical Federation. But a truly native English institution is now to arise in the heart of Industrial England. It is pleasant to learn that much of the inspiration for this comes from one recently president of the B.M.A.—Sir Arthur Thomson.

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I understand from the same source that the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board, the University, and the city's teaching hospital will join forces in fostering this new and excellent project.

Some such form of collaboration was indeed urged in the Porritt Report's chapter on medical education. "The Royal Colleges, the universities, and the Health Service should combine to organize postgraduate training throughout the country, and hospital staffs must be enabled to play their part in this by an improvement in their existing terms and conditions of service." The Porritt Report recommended that the overall strategy for postgraduate training should be the concern of a central independent professional body representing universities, and all the professional colleges and associations.

* * *

All this has to do with training the specialist. The Porritt Report also has plenty of wise things to say on postgraduate training of the general practitioner and something—but not enough, I think—on postgraduate training for general practice. The College of General Practitioners is in a key position here. I hope the College won't be diverted from its missionary course by pursuing the will-o'-the-wisp of a membership examination. I hope it is not too late for its wise men and women to take heed of Sir George Pickering's advice in his letter in last week's B.M.J. I am sure the College is strong enough and bold enough to admit a mistake—if one has been made, as I think it has. I am glad to learn of Dr. Ronald Gibson's cogent arguments in support of this view (see p. 255). Our American colleagues look upon the British pursuit of diplomas and preoccupation with examinations as almost an obsessional neurosis.

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The nine sponsoring organizations of the Porritt "Review of the Medical Services in Great Britain" ought to be quick off the mark in letting the rest of us know what they think about it. The most thoughtful