

us further in his debt. It reviews in detail all that is known of mast cell disease and of the structure and functions of the mast cell. Although the approach is encyclopaedic and the documentation is detailed in the extreme, the style is clear and unpedantic, and it is a pleasure to read. The many illustrations, clinical and photomicrographic, are of high quality. A remarkable collection of over 50 radiographs emphasizes the difficulties of radiological interpretation.

This book should not be dismissed as yet another monograph on a rare disease. It is certainly that, and the best available, but it is also a stimulating and critical account of an important cell of at least as much interest to the pharmacologist and the pathologist as to the clinical dermatologist or paediatrician. The book can be strongly recommended.

ARTHUR ROOK.

## On First Seeing a Patient

**Symptoms and Signs in Clinical Medicine. An Introduction to Medical Diagnosis.** 8th edition. By E. Noble Chamberlain, M.D., M.Sc., F.R.C.P., and Colin Ogilvie, M.D., M.R.C.P. (Pp. 536+xi; illustrated. 55s.) Bristol: John Wright. 1967.

For just as long as a curriculum in many medical schools is divided with little integration into a preclinical and a clinical course, books such as this will be required as an introduction to the clinical studies. That it has since 1936 met this need is not surprising, and the present edition will rightly continue to be a favourite with students thirsting to start clinical work.

Looked at with a fresh eye it is an enjoyable hotchpotch of clinical photographs, applied physiology (which should be, but seldom is, taught in the preclinical course in a manner meaningful to the students), and an account of history taking and physical examination. Could I make a plea against "the routine of interrogation"? Histories should be received and not taken; cross-examination will only obtain answers to the questions asked, and much more will be learnt if the patient is, like a horse, given a relatively loose rein. The authors concede that in some cases diagnosis is impossible without "special investigations," but perhaps the word "special" could in future editions be omitted. Do we not overemphasize the importance of the minutiae of the physical examination without admitting its grave limitations in many circumstances? In a clinically anaemic patient, for example, with generalized lymphadenopathy the ability to detect the presence or absence of a palpable spleen is (*pace* the traditionalists) of little importance because the diagnosis is likely to rest on the peripheral blood picture or a lymph node biopsy.

If one has any criticism to make of this book it is perhaps its failure to point out the limitations of the clinical examination, which is often the overture to the laboratory work needed to establish the diagnosis. Much of the present dissatisfaction of the general practitioner is due to the conscious or unconscious realization of this fact, and the absence of time or facilities to progress beyond the overture.

R. I. S. BAYLISS.

## Clinical Endocrinology

**Modern Trends in Endocrinology.** Vol. 3. Edited by H. Gardiner-Hill, M.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 335+x; illustrated. 88s.) London: Butterworth. 1967.

The previous volumes in this series have been a boon to clinical endocrinologists. Volume two was published five years ago. There is only one possible criticism that can fairly be levelled against the series—successive volumes should appear more often.

Volume three is even better than its fore-runners, perhaps because it is aimed more accurately at the clinician. There is not a chapter that should not be read by him and carefully digested. New information about dwarfism, especially in relation to treatment with growth hormone, is critically reviewed by A. S. Mason, J. M. Tanner, and B. E. Clayton. A fuller discussion of the use of anabolic hormones in deficient growth might be welcome. The clinician's knowledge of inherited and environmental factors in thyroid disease, of tests of thyroid function, and of the long-acting thyroid stimulator are brought as nearly up to date as possible in a subject which grows so fast, though it is surprising to find no reference to the quick and useful immediate uptake test elaborated by H. E. A. Farran at New End Hospital. Naturally the exciting work of A. C. Crooke on the induction of ovulation is fully described, and J. Vallance-Owen admirably and clearly describes current views on the aetiology of diabetes mellitus.

A strong point in favour of the whole book, especially W. S. Peart's chapter on endocrine aspects of hypertension and O. H. Pearson's on hormone-dependent cancers, is the absence of any inhibition against the discussion of subjects which are advancing so rapidly that they are bound to be out of date almost immediately. The publishers are to be congratulated on their speed of production. This is a book which no clinical endocrinologist can afford to neglect.

RAYMOND GREENE.

## Antibiotics in Hospital Practice

**The Therapeutic Use of Antibiotics in Hospital Practice.** Symposium, London, 1966. Edited by Mark Ridley, B.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.C.Path., and Ian Phillips, M.A., M.B., B.Chir. (Pp. 222; illustrated. 25s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1966.

This neat soft-covered book is the record of a meeting at St. Thomas's Hospital which brought together well-known speakers from various parts of Britain, and Dr. Ericsson from Stockholm. It begins with accounts of the properties, pharmacology, and dangers of the major antibiotics, and discussions on the principles of their use and their laboratory control. This is followed by accounts of the prophylactic and topical uses of antibiotics, and the treatment of urinary, obstetric, and fungal infections, and of septicaemia.

In addition to the well-digested and authoritative views of the distinguished panel of speakers, it manages to cram into its short span a record of the discussion after each paper. Inevitably this is not always as lucid (or as accurate) as the prepared papers, but

there are many places in which it expands, enlivens, and sometimes elucidates what has gone before. Altogether very good value for 25 shillings.

F. W. O'GRADY.

## Electronmicroscopy in Pathology

**Elektronenmikroskopische Organpathologie.** By Professor Heinz David. (Pp. 711+xx; illustrated. £10 2s. 1d.) Jena: Volk und Gesundheit. 1967.

This book, the pathology of tissues as studied by the electron microscope, is by the director of the Institute of Pathology in the Humboldt University, who is also the head of the department of electron microscopy at the Charité. It is a definitive textbook on the electron-microscopic appearances of normal and diseased tissues.

An initial chapter is devoted to the structure of normal cells and their subcellular components, and the terminology illustrated by 33 photographs and several drawings. In each subsequent chapter a brief description of the normal tissue precedes a detailed account of the changes found in disease. Every body tissue is considered, though the chapters differ greatly in length, from 65–70 pages for liver and kidney to 10 on the male organs of generation. Much of the material illustrated is of human origin, but wherever appropriate, as in changes due to poisoning, tissues from experimental animals have been used. The quality of the photographs is high, and the reproduction is excellent. Where material is specialized or difficult, use is often made of previously published material—for example, in describing the structure of the tails of spermatozoa—a procedure which ensures the most reliable descriptions.

References are numerous—800 to the liver alone and 200 to the myocardium—and are said to be complete up to the end of 1966. Complete bibliographic data are given at the end of each chapter, with references to these in footnotes on each page, so that this book provides not merely a general review of the subject but also a very adequate guide to the literature—at least in the languages of Western Europe, for there are few references to Russian work, and most references are to publications in English, German, French, and Italian.

For anyone having a moderate acquaintance with German this is an admirable volume. It relates changes in form to those of function, and does so in simple, straightforward language. The publishers have produced a beautifully printed volume with over 200 illustrations at a very reasonable price, and it should be very useful to histopathologists everywhere.

GEORGE DISCOMBE.

## History of a Voluntary Hospital

**Salisbury 200. The Bicentenary of Salisbury Infirmary. 1766–1966.** By Members of the Hospital Staff. (Pp. 162; illustrated. 12s. 6d.) Salisbury: Salisbury General Hospital. 1967.

One might expect from its title that this book, written to commemorate the bicentenary of