

opacity in the various forms of pneumoconiosis. Perhaps it is not reasonable to expect these long clinical and pathological sections to reach the standard required for a clinical or pathological textbook, but clarity and accuracy at an elementary level can be expected, and these are not attained. Other evidence of lack of balance is afforded by the relative prominence given to various subjects. Radiographic technique in examination of the lungs is described in five pages; there is no discussion of the criteria by which the adequacy of chest films may be judged, nor of the adjustments in technique which are required to correct faults in the films. Pulmonary tuberculosis, which is queerly linked in one chapter with histoplasmosis, receives 20 pages, and lung abscess four pages, whereas berylliosis and sarcoidosis each receive five pages.

In the preface, the author states that one of the purposes of the book is to make available a large and varied collection of radiographs. Certainly there are more than 400 radiographic illustrations, but their quality is very variable, and, in some instances the interpretation of them is open to question. To take only two examples, Fig. 37, which is presented as an example of atelectasis of the right lower lobe, suggests in the reproduction a patchy bronchopneumonia involving the right lower lobe, together with a scoliosis; and Fig. 38, which is labelled "Atelectasis, right middle lobe," shows atelectasis of both the right middle lobe and the anterior segment of the right lower lobe. The inadequate scale of some of the reproductions of radiographs has already been mentioned.

In any book of this size, criticisms in matters of detail can always be made, but the occasion for them is far too frequent in this book. As a term for increased translucency to x rays the extraordinary word "radiability" is used alternatively with "radiancy." If it is thought desirable to have a special word applicable to x rays and analogous to translucency, "transradiancy" seems the most acceptable neologism. There are many other evidences of careless writing. For instance, "virus and rickettsial diseases involving the lungs" are included among the differential diagnosis of virus pneumonia. There are also many inaccuracies in matters of fact. "Jaagstekte" [*sic*] is described as a virus disease of sheep which rarely occurs in humans, and which gives rise to alveolar cell carcinoma. It is stated that pneumonia frequently develops in chicken-pox. Siderosis is defined as a lesion which occurs in workers with metals, particularly metallic oxides. The bone changes in sarcoidosis are described as "closely similar to those in leprosy." The nomenclature of the bronchial tree given on p. 34 and that in Plate 1 do not agree with each other. Although a fairly extensive list of references is given at the end of each section they are predominantly to the American literature. This insularity of outlook may be illustrated further by the observations that in the section on Q fever no mention is made of its occurrence in Australia, let alone of its original description in that country; and that in the discussions of oesophageal abnormalities and hiatus hernia there is no reference to the work of Allison and his colleagues in Leeds. This book cannot be recommended.

J. G. SCADDING.

LABORATORY TESTS

Clinical Laboratory Diagnosis. By Samuel A. Levinson, M.S., M.D., Ph.D., and Robert P. MacFate, M.S., Ph.D. Fourth edition, thoroughly revised. (Pp. 1,146; 221 illustrations and 13 plates, 10 in colour. £4 4s.) London: Henry Kimpton.

This book has been brought up to date by including accounts of the newer tests of the functions of the liver and suprarenals, flame photometry, and methods for detecting incomplete Rh antibodies. The chemical section includes almost all the useful methods of investigation. Descriptions of methods are clear and detailed. The only criticism is that the authors might have given a better indication of the relative values of different investigations; for example, all

the tests of liver function given on p. 102 are not equally useful. The haematology section is less satisfactory. The Westergren sedimentation tube is not mentioned, and most pathologists in this country have given up the correction of the Wintrobe result for the degree of the patient's anaemia. The problem of blood-group nomenclature is handled well, but in a work of this size discussion of the laboratory tests used in the diagnosis of haemophilia could well have been expanded.

Descriptions of the bacteria are given in the form of an elaborate table. This is not a very satisfactory method, since it is difficult to give adequate emphasis to the really important bacteria; no mention is made of the mitis, intermediate, and gravis types of diphtheria bacilli. Few bacteriologists would agree with the author that boiling water for 30 minutes will kill all spores. In spite of some defects, however, the book is a useful source of information which would be difficult to find elsewhere and should be useful to the pathologist in training. It is hardly a work for the medical student.

J. R. MARRACK.

PSYCHOSURGERY

Psychosurgery in the Treatment of Mental Disorders and Intractable Pain. By Walter Freeman, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.P., and James W. Watts, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S. Second edition. (Pp. 598; 156 figures. £3 17s. 6d.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1951.

This, the second edition of Freeman and Watts's pioneer monograph on prefrontal leucotomy, is enlarged in proportion to the increased experience of the authors. In 1942 they reported on under 100 cases. In the present volume this figure has been increased by over 400, of which the majority are schizophrenics. When the first edition appeared Watts had operated on only 12 cases of schizophrenia. The results obtained with the present series of 228 cases are essentially the same as those reported by other workers—a reduction in distress in the great majority of cases and a resumption of some sort of social effectiveness in about a third of those operated on.

Of the new material the most fascinating is the report on the surgical treatment of behaviour disorders in children. Although the results are not encouraging, they indicate that the abnormal child is unexpectedly tolerant of frontal-lobe damage, which apparently causes no gross impairment of learning ability or deterioration in behaviour. All these children are described as schizophrenics; while this is quite possibly correct, this chapter underlines all three of the major defects of the book. First, the authors appear to lack psychiatric sophistication—that is to say, the diagnostic groups are mainly descriptive and consist essentially of those patients showing disturbed behaviour (schizophrenia), those who are depressed (affective disorder), and those who are over-anxious and over-conscientious (the obsessive-compulsive group). Secondly, the material is not presented in detail or summarized in a way which would enable the reader to draw conclusions of his own. Most provoking is the continual reference to an interesting point in, say, case 336; detailed search in the index and text fails, however, to disclose any further reference to this patient. Thirdly, the authors do not often relate their own results to those of other workers. Even Freeman's own results with the "ice pick" method are only briefly noticed. As a consequence this is neither a textbook on leucotomy nor a source of material for the research worker. The book remains a readable and stimulating record of the individual work and rather naive opinions of two American doctors who had the enthusiasm and technique to adapt and popularize Moniz's original operation. There can be no doubt about the value of their work, and their original book is of historic importance in psychiatry. Although beautifully produced and lavishly illustrated, the present edition is not worth twice the money.

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