be recommended to all who require a monograph on the subject with which it is concerned. The opening chapter is on embryology, anatomy, and physiology. It contains much that is of interest, and to write it the author must have spent many hours reading and assessing a wide variety of essays scattered in many journals and books. The second chapter is concerned with normal scalp, "hair dressing," and—in significant juxtaposition—"dermatitis." Behrman has avoided the pitfall of making this section too long, and has constructed a brief, authoritative, but adequate survey of the subject.

The remaining chapters are concerned with alopecia, seborrhoeic diatheses, infections, psychogenic disorders, maladies due to involvement of the scalp by systemic and cutaneous diseases, and tumours. At the end of the book there is an appendix containing many formulae and a satisfactory index.

M. B. Sulzberger has contributed a foreword. "I cannot say," he writes, "that I agree with every word in this book . . . there are quite a few statements which allow for honest differences of opinion. . . ." The present reviewer finds himself in warm agreement with these remarks. Particularly, to take but one example, he finds it difficult to accept a system of classification which does not include familial premature alopecia of males as a separate entity but includes the condition in an omnibus title "male pattern alopecia (common baldness)." Other readers may well take exception to the author's action in including alopecia areata as a "scalp disorder of psychogenic origin (proved or presumptive)." Behrman may well be correct, but most logicians could easily demolish the arguments which have been advanced by many authors in support of this theory of aetiology. These, however, are but "honest differences of opinion," and those who read the book carefully will find others on which to sharpen their critical faculties. But in general they will probably agree that this is both an admirable and a useful book.

R. M. B. MACKENNA.

YAWS

Bone Lesions of Yaws in Uganda. By C. J. Hackett, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 194; 133 figures. £2 5s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1952.

This book, by an acknowledged authority, is based on a detailed study of some hundreds of cases of yaws with bone lesions in Lango in the Protectorate of Uganda. The author begins with an introduction detailing geographical and technical information, and giving a very brief account of the Lango tribe. Sections follow on the aetiology of bone lesions observed in radiography and clinical descriptions of the bone lesions observed in each stage of the disease. The book ends with a summary in which there is an all-too-brief discussion on the bone lesions of yaws and syphilis, which concludes with the bleak words, "It may be said that apart from the absence of osteo-chondritis in yaws, there are probably no bone lesions that occur in one disease that may not be observed in the other."

The classification of yaws lesions was based on the skin changes observed. Lesions were grouped as primary or secondary, in both of which the treponemata could usually be readily demonstrated, and tertiary, in which treponemata were rarely found. Secondary generalized lesions were never destructive, and healed with insignificant scars. Tertiary lesions were characterized by destructive ulceration which healed with atrophic scars. Tertiary lesions appeared later in the disease and were never present contemporaneously with secondary lesions; the latter never appeared after the development of tertiary lesions.

Bone lesions appearing contemporaneously with secondary skin lesions were regarded as secondary. A late secondary stage is described to include bone changes resembling secondary lesions, but occurring in the absence of skin lesions. Tertiary bone lesions were "first recognized by their incidence in patients with typical tertiary skin lesions. Cases with no skin lesions but with bone lesions resembling those in the tertiary cases were included in the tertiary group; in some of these tertiary skin lesions subsequently developed."

Secondary bone lesions usually developed during an eruption of skin yaws. The majority appeared in children of 5 years and under. The affected regions were tender and swollen. The pathological processes included rarefaction of the bone cortex and periosteal deposits. Resolution resulted in cortical thickening and bony expansion. Further activity or resolution sometimes followed. In general, numerous bones (especially when the hand or foot was concerned) were involved in the secondary changes. Ulceration to the surface and spontaneous fracture did not occur in this stage. The author summarizes the secondary changes as "a non-suppurative inflammatory reaction of the various tissues of bone." He considers that there is no evidence that yaws played any part in "bowing" of the tibial shaft.

Tertiary lesions occurred in older patients, the majority being over 10 years of age. There was usually some localized bony swelling and pain. The active processes consisted in focal rarefactions, usually well defined and sometimes multiple, in the thickened cortex of expanded bone. Ulceration through the skin and spontaneous fracture sometimes occurred. Resolution was slow, and the destructive nature of the lesions was usually evident. The author considers gangosa "a characteristic destructive tertiary yaws lesion."

The book contains a great deal of interesting, detailed information and is undoubtedly a major contribution to tropical medicine. The great pity is that its text is so carefully confined to the title subject. The author's great knowledge of other aspects of the disease is only glimpsed. It is to be hoped he will one day widen the view into a study of yaws as a whole. The author and the publisher are to be congratulated on a fine book.

B. G. MAEGRAITH.

CLOT RETRACTION

Clot Retraction. By O. E. Budtz-Olsen, M.D. (Pp. 149: illustrated. £1 5s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1952.

The subject of clot retraction is essentially one for the specialist in haematology. It presents many interesting and varied aspects, which are most ably discussed and analysed by Dr. Budtz-Olsen. This monograph consists of a detailed review of the theories and practical applications of the subject, and the author has, in a masterly manner, reinforced the theoretical structure, where he has found it weak, with new and original experiments of his own. He fully discusses all the usual techniques used for measuring clot retraction and points out the factors which may modify results at the laboratory bench, elucidating them by figures obtained from personal observation. Such subjects as the influence of vessel shape, temperature, the importance of formed blood elements, and the effects of the various plasma-clotting factors are dealt with in this manner. Wherever helpful, line diagrams and photographs have been included in the text, and the general production and printing of the book are satisfactory.

This monograph will be of interest to all engaged on problems of blood coagulation. It offers in small bulk a review of over 400 original papers in many languages, and for the bibliography alone we should be deeply grateful. The book fails perhaps in one respect only: the author's own views on certain points are not clearly expressed. He says, as it were, Here is the evidence, draw your own conclusions. This, in fact, is often the main difficulty even to those who are thoroughly conversant with the problems of clot retraction.

H. PAYLING WRIGHT.

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