BOOK REVIEWS

The therapeutic use of blood plasma and of other blood derivatives and substitutes has been growing so rapidly that few of us have been able to keep pace with the avalanche of papers distributed in periodicals. The authors of this book have attempted to present a review of the whole subject. Both men are eminently qualified, having taken an active part in the development of this relatively new branch of therapeutics.

The 15 chapters deal with history of transfusions and blood banks, chemistry and physiology of plasma, preparation and storage of liquid citrated plasma and of dried plasma, administration, plasma fractions, by-products and substitutes, serum, blood preservation, transportation, the universal donor, blood plasma bank, shock, clinical results with plasma and reactions.

Every one of the subjects is of interest and of great practical importance to the clinical pathologist. There is an abundance of technical details clearly and exhaustively presented. The illustrations are well selected and add to the understanding of various technics. Well-chosen lists of references follow each chapter.

This book is a must for every one interested in blood and plasma transfusions. It is the most complete and up-to-date presentation of an expanding field where clinical medicine, surgery and clinical pathology meet and have much to offer to each other.

Chicago

I. DAVIDSOHN

Laboratory Technique in Biology and Medicine. By E. V. Cowdry, Professor of Anatomy, Washington University, and Director of Research, The Barnard Free Skin and Cancer Hospital, St. Louis. 269 pp. $4.00. Baltimore: The Williams & Wilkins Co., 1948.

This second edition of Cowdry's book retains the general organization of the first edition, but contains a large amount of added important new material, especially in the fields of histochemistry and radioactive technics. Practically all the recent methods are adequately covered; many of the original entries have been completely rewritten and considerably expanded to include modern developments.

It may be questioned whether some of the additions (e.g., the detailed historical description of some obsolete dyes such as fustic, Tyrian purple and woad) serve any useful purpose. A few disturbing misprints (decolorization of acid-fast stain with sodium sulphate, p. 71; Mg instead of Hg in the reaction for tyrosine, p. 255) and errors (formol-Zenker the preferred fixative for acid-fast stain; chromaffin reaction can be performed after fixation in dichromate-free media; phenolphthalein contains sulfuric acid) have been taken over unchanged from the first edition.

On the whole, however, it may be safely asserted that this book contains incomparably more useful and practical information for the biologist than any other book of similar size.

Chicago

GEORGE GOMONI

Stereoscopic Atlas of Neuroanatomy. By H. S. Rubinstein, M.D., Ph.D., Director of the Alfred Ullman Laboratory for Neuro-psychiatric Research, Sinai Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland; and C. L. Davis, M.D., Professor of Anatomy, School of Medicine, University of Maryland. 19 pp., 43 plates. $10.00. New York: Grune and Stratton, 1947.

This addition to the long lists of atlases which have appeared in the last few years purports to be an aid in orientation in courses in neuroanatomy and a useful review tool for those preparing for "board" examinations. The reviewer has grave doubts that it will be of any great value in accomplishing either of these tasks. If the undergraduate student performs the dissections as set forth in the laboratory outline, these pictures are superfluous; and if he does not, all the three-dimensional pictures in the world will not give him the concepts he should have. The "board" candidate needs experience in brain dissection.
as much as, if not more than, the undergraduate student. This seems to the reviewer to be another situation where the elaborate mechanisms of "visual education" do not accomplish what they set out to. Even in the year 1948 there remains some pain attached to the education of a physician.

The reader is quite correct in concluding that the reviewer is more than somewhat allergic to the general idea of atlases. However, he is willing to admit that there are good and bad ones. The present effort is clearly in the latter category. The diagrams accompanying the stereograms are not good; they lack the clarity that diagrams should have and tend to confuse with their multiplicity of labels. Most of the photographs are amateurish in that they suffer from bad lighting, lack of depth and lack of detail. Some of the specimens appear to have become dried and to have assumed the brownish coloration characteristic of nervous tissue. These patches appear dark gray to black and lend nothing to esthetic values. It is regrettable that many good dissections of the brain should have been spoiled by amateurish photography. It is to be hoped that the dissections have been placed in suitable containers and made available to students at the University of Maryland.

Detroit

GORDON H. SCOTT


This comprehensive monograph covers the chemistry of over 5000 sulfonamide compounds. Of particular interest to the clinical pathologist is the chapter on the pharmacology of sulfonamide and sulfone drugs which includes a discussion of methods of assay in body fluids, toxicity studies, absorption and excretion studies and invaluable information on the distribution of these compounds in the tissues of the host. Of interest to the therapist is the maxim: "A drug which does not distribute itself in all the tissues of the body may possess in vitro activity and yet be of little value therapeutically because it fails to reach the site of the infection." With this in mind Dr. Northey exhaustively discusses tissue distribution of the sulfonamides.

Outstanding in the text is a discussion of the theories of the mechanism of action of sulfonamide drugs with rather detailed treatment of sulfonamide antagonists and potentiators. In this respect the pathologist will find valuable information on the detection of resistant organisms, the effects of sulfonamide drugs on enzymes and the effects of sulfonamides on various body tissues as well as on the bacterial invaders. The chapter on clinical evaluation of these drugs is both orderly and comprehensive.

This book handles a difficult subject with clarity and in an objective style. It is not only an excellent reference in itself but contains a bibliography of over 2500 other references.

Detroit

MARK DALE