BOOK REVIEWS

Introduction which in the former edition disarmed the criticism that a book with this title did not deal with any morphological tests, and that there should be no reference to the cerebrospinal fluid, and a negligible reference to haematology; this was because the emphasis was to be on 'functional' tests. The book is, in fact, primarily biochemical; of its 15 chapters the only four not wholly chemical in content are those of the cardiovascular system, the nervous system, immunological tests and 'selected haematological tests'. In the biochemical part the tests are well selected and arranged, many new ones have been introduced, and outmoded methods have been pruned away. In almost every case the laboratory procedures are described in full, so that the book is a practical laboratory manual.

There is, unfortunately, no general introduction which might have contained a discussion of micromethods that are so important to the paediatric pathologist. The sections labelled 'Pediatric Considerations', appearing with each test in the earlier edition, are now merged in the general text. However, interpretation from the paediatric viewpoint is uniformly well presented. So much has been added, and the rewriting has been so thorough, that we have now a new and up-to-date textbook on functional tests, with an efficient index and well-selected references, and one that most paediatric units will wish to have at hand. The price is rather high for private purchase.

Beiträge zur Klinik und Pathogenese der Coeliakei.

This interesting volume consists of a collection of papers given in May 1961 at a symposium on coeliac disease in Bern. Two of the 13 contributions are in English. That of Sir Wilfrid Sheldon and Dr. M. Simpkins deals with the therapy and prognosis of coeliac disease. Prof. A. C. Frazer discusses the pathogenesis of differing forms of the malabsorption syndrome, and the possible mechanism of action of wheat gluten. The other papers are in German or French each followed by a brief summary in English.

A short history of coeliac disease is given by Professor Fanconi; the typical symptoms, signs and laboratory findings are described by Dr. H. Kaser. Other aspects discussed in the symposium are the differential diagnosis; the importance of changes of intestinal flora; emotional disturbance in patients; the possible role of glutamic acid in relation to lambliasis; the selective absorption of fatty acids; and work on the allergic process in the pathogenesis of the coeliac syndrome. The volume concludes with a recorded general discussion by the contributors.

The symposium presents in concise and authoritative form current views on many aspects of the coeliac syndrome.


This is an excellently produced book with good illustrations, and the bibliography shows that Mr. Wilson has read very extensively. It must be regarded as the textbook on its rather limited subject and should be available to everyone who practises in this special field. It was obviously difficult to decide how much could be omitted, and it might have been of more practical help if the pages devoted to the pathology of cholesteatoma had been used for a more extensive discussion on the difficult and common problem of chronic sinusitis in children. One hopes that the section given to describing the guillotine operation for removal of tonsils will be relegated to an historical appendix in the next edition, and its place taken by a description of the paratonsillar vein of Denis Browne, which is the cause of post-operative bleeding, and the ligation of which, whenever it is injured, is the clue to its prevention. Embryology is very fully dealt with as is surely proper in a book dealing with young subjects. It is all the more surprising to read that deviation of the nasal septum in children requiring operative correction is usually traumatic, when in London it seems much more often to be developmental. The praiseworthy reluctance to operate must have an individual variation, but possibly the more spontaneous and natural life of the Irish, leads to more broken noses.

The author must be congratulated on this very excellent book apparently produced in the ample spare time that falls to the lot of a practising surgeon when he is not presiding at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.