application of these compounds, but what progress has been made and the limitations of chemotherapy are clearly defined. A number of interesting problems relating to smallpox and vaccinia viruses are discussed by H. S. Bedson and K. R. Dumbell, including the latest information on diagnostic procedures. Accounts of two diseases which still present formidable problems in preventive medicine are included. D. A. J. Tyrrell writes on the common cold and related viruses with an account of new and intriguing techniques for culturing these difficult agents. K. McCarthy and C. H. Taylor-Robinson bring us up-to-date with a chapter on rubella: this is an admirable and well-balanced account and touches upon many facets, the properties of the virus, methods of culture, and prospects of immunization. Reoviruses are also much in the news. Like the mycoplasmas they seem to crop up here and there and it is difficult to determine their role as pathogens. The chapter by N. F. Stanley helps to put the matter in perspective. In the chapter on scrapie, J. T. Stamp gives a fascinating account of this peculiar disease and the even more peculiar causative agent. The author sets out with admirable clarity the wider implications of scrapie with its ramifications in human and veterinary medicine. There is also an interesting account of recent advances in the study of viral oncogenesis. There are many other chapters in the book of a more specific nature, dealing with the morphological and antigenic subunits of viruses, virulence, genetic analysis, defective and delayed infections, and replication of small RNA viruses. These are probably of greater interest to virologists, but there is much in them of general interest to clinicians and pathologists. The Scientific Editor and authors are to be congratulated on yet another admirable edition in this series.

Haemophilus Influenzae. Its Clinical Importance.

This book gives a full and comprehensive account of the many bacteriological, clinical, and immunological aspects of Haemophilus influenzae. It gives a detailed account of this interesting organism which has turned up in association with so many different clinical conditions in medicine and surgery and has laid many false trails to confuse clinicians and bacteriologists.

The book starts with an historical review of the literature from the first discovery of the organism in 1892, when Pfeiffer originally thought it to be the cause of influenza. Gradually the association of the organism with the disease whose name it bears has been disproved and its significance reduced to that of a mere commensal. The authors go on to describe its rehabilitation to the status of an important pathogen.

The following chapters deal with the bacteriology of Haemophilus influenzae and discuss the distribution of haemophilus amongst healthy people. The numerous surveys of incidence and carrier rate in many parts of the world ranging from London and other parts of England to the West Indies and New York are concisely summarized.

The authors then go on to discuss the pathogenicity of the organism and the frequent failure of many observers to allow for the normal distribution amongst a healthy population when implicating it as a pathogenic cause.

As befits its importance, Haemophilus meningitis is dealt with in a separate chapter; emphasis is placed on its incidence, age, sex, and race distribution as well as the bacteriology. The carrier rate of haemophilus amongst the families of affected children is discussed. The clinical aspects are also dealt with briefly.

The important place of haemophilus in bronchial disorders is considered next and the difficulties in isolating it from sputum cultures are discussed.

Other conditions with which Haemophilus influenzae can be associated are then reviewed; of these epiglottitis will be of interest to paediatricians, but the chapter includes many other conditions that are only rarely due to haemophilus, such as peritonitis and urinary infection, and conditions such as bronchiolitis in which haemophilus infection is of secondary importance only.

The chapter on chemotherapy is full and comprehensive and includes descriptions of many regimens.

The book ends with a discussion on immunology and looks forward to further research.

This book will be welcomed by paediatricians and chest physicians, and all those who have to deal with Haemophilus influenzae infections. It will help the clinician to understand the bacteriological and immunological problems involved and to fill in the many possible gaps in his knowledge of the epidemiological problems and the relation between the saprophytic and pathogenic forms of haemophilus. It will not, of course, add anything new or give any help in the actual clinical management of haemophilus infections. This would be outside the scope of the book. Nevertheless, there are many summaries of papers published on the clinical and therapeutic aspects.


This is a record of a symposium held in London in November 1965, with 25 members from this country, the U.S.A., Germany, France, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland, and Sweden. With the two earlier symposia, 'Problems of Pulmonary Circulation' in November 1960, and 'Pulmonary Structure and Function' in July 1961, the Ciba Foundation can congratulate itself on having sponsored a trio of notable publications on the lung.

Hugh-Jones in his opening remarks makes the point that the really fascinating pulmonary aspect of human birth is that the fetus goes from liquid to air breathing, so that there must be a parallel in the phylogenetic problems that animals faced in the development of the lung when they evolved from water to air breathing. Thus 'Phylogeny of the Lung' was the theme of the first