

**The pathology of emphysema.** LYNNE REID, F.R.A.C.P., M.R.C.P., F.C.Path. London. Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Limited. 1967. Pp. ix + 372. Price £3 10s.

Emphysema is a term which enjoys wide, and often indiscriminate use by clinicians, including general practitioners. It is now agreed that emphysema is a disorder of lung structure which can be identified with certainty only by pathological examination. Therefore, the condition is defined on a pathological basis.

This book has been written by a distinguished pathologist whose work has contributed greatly to our knowledge of chronic bronchitis as well as emphysema. The title is somewhat misleading, for this is much more than a pathological textbook about emphysema. Not only does the book deal with the clinical, radiological and functional abnormalities which occur in emphysema but the vexed problems of aetiology and its relationship to chronic bronchitis are discussed very fully.

An especial merit of this book is the way in which different types of emphysema have been classified. Not only has this clarified what was previously a very difficult subject but it will prove to be of great value in future studies of emphysema. It is a pity, however, that no space has been given to a discussion of whether there are true differences between this country and North America in the aetiology and pathological features of emphysema.

The book is outstanding for the clarity of the text, its beautiful production and the large number of excellent illustrations. While it certainly does not fall into the category of books which can be regarded as indispensable for general practitioners, it will prove an invaluable reference book to all who have a special interest in diseases of the chest.

**Cervical spondylosis.** Edited by LORD BRAIN, D.M., LL.D., D.C.L., and MARCIA WILKINSON, D.M., F.R.C.P. London. William Heinemann Medical Books Limited. 1967. Pp. ix + 232. Price 55s.

Many, many years ago, in the Golden Age before the telly, London news-vendors had a cry with which they greeted every crisis from the loss of Empire to the loss of Hobbs' wicket at Lords. "Read all about it", they shouted—and the statement was usually overpitched and always disappointing. Applied to this book, however, it would be absolutely accurate, and the operative word would be 'all'.

There is a brief historical *résumé* of the subject—and it is interesting to note that although the syndrome has been known to modern medicine for a mere 20 years, a good description of its symptoms was given some 4,000 years ago. Those of us who are long years away from the dissecting room will be astonished to see that the anatomy of the cervical spine occupies 86 magnificently-illustrated pages. The pathology of the subject—again beautifully illustrated—covers some 23 pages, and symptomatology has to be content with a mere eight. All facets of radiology are dealt with in great depth—we are even told the exact technical methods of examination and the apparatus required. This section covers some 77 pages, and has many illustrations of the highest quality. The book ends with a short section on medical and surgical treatment and prognosis.

This is one of the most elegant volumes to come to hand for a long time, and must be required reading for all specialists in the field of physical medicine—though the suggestion of the publisher that it will be of inestimable value to students leaves the reviewer with the conviction that any student who attempted