

safe to predict that this book, now in its second edition, will run to many more, for what more can one ask of any textbook than that it should be authoritative, lucid—and entertaining?

Myocardial infarction. Proceedings of the ninth conference of the International Society of Geographical Pathology. Published on behalf of the directing committee of the Society by Prof. J. R. RUTTNER. S. Karger, Basel (Switzerland) and New York. 1967. Pp. 320. Price £6 17s. 6d.

The International Society of Geographical Pathology was founded in Geneva in 1931 with the object of conducting systematic investigations into the "Panorama of disease" and into the peculiarity of their symptoms in different regions of the world. Pathologists and clinicians all over the world have contributed to provide simultaneous uniform investigations into the relationship of climate, customs, social development, and so forth, in this case, to the incidence of myocardial infarction. This inquiry began in 1963 and the size of the task can be judged from the fact that the section on the frequency of myocardial infarction includes an analysis of 105,000 autopsies.

The book is composed of 46 separate papers and is divided into three parts. The first is concerned with the incidence in different parts of the world; the second with biochemistry and pathology, and the third with epidemiology. The second part contains 20 papers. Cholesterol metabolism, physical activity, platelets, lymphatics and anatomical anomalies of the coronary arteries are a few of the subjects critically analysed.

It is stated in the section on epidemiology that methods of diagnosis have been so much improved in recent years that it is not valid to compare statistics relating to the period before 1958 with those of the present day, and for this reason it is difficult to decide whether the increase in morbidity and mortality is apparent or real. Some of the papers describe investigations into the incidence of myocardial infarction of a kind which might be undertaken by members of the College and this book should be studied before embarking on such a course.

A short textbook of orthopaedics and traumatology. J. N. ASTON, M.B., F.R.C.S. London. The English University Press Limited. 1967. Pp. viii + 307. Price 27s. 6d. paper back; 40s. library edition.

The reviewer's first reaction on reading this excellent book was to wish that it had been in existence 20 years ago, when as a student he struggled with the complexities of orthopaedics. It is concisely and succinctly written and a joy to read while the line drawings are clear and self explanatory. Medical students and general practitioners will find this book invaluable. It is indeed wise to include the subject of traumatology in its widest sense, so that the students realize that accident surgery enhances all surgical disciplines. Nevertheless, three pages are too short to deal with the difficult and important subject of chest injuries. The teaching of first aid to students is usually absent and an enlarged section on the management of these serious injuries at the site of occurrence would enhance the value of a future edition of this book.

The care of radiation casualties. First edition. J. BLAKELY, M.D., D.P.H., D.I.H. London. W. Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1968. Pp. viii + 139. Price 30s. 0d.

This book is one of a series of monographs published by Heinemann. The title may suggest holocausts, like Hiroshima or Nagasaki, but as the author points out, with the considerable increase in the amount of radio-activity in