

Blood coagulation simplified. F. NOUR-ELDIN, Ph.D., M.B., B.Ch., L.M.S.S.A., M.C.Path. London. Butterworths. 1967. Pp. x+160. Price 25s. 0d.

This book is written by a pathologist for technicians and students preparing for the final examination in pharmacology. Its emphasis is on practical laboratory procedures, their application in elucidating disorders of coagulation, and their clinical relevance. Although it attempts to simplify the subject, it is likely that the general practitioner will find this book too technical for his usual requirements, since it is inevitably written with the laboratory in mind.

NEW EDITIONS

May and Worth's manual of diseases of the eye. Thirteenth edition. T. KEITH LYLE, C.B.E., M.A., M.D., M.Chir., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., ALEXANDER G. CROSS, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S. and CHARLES A. G. COOK, G.M., M.C., F.R.C.S. London. Baillière, Tindall & Cassell. 1968. Pp. xi + 796. Price £3 10s. 0d.

This well-known manual of ophthalmology has now reached its thirteenth edition, the first having been published as long ago as 1906. The authors present a comprehensive outline of ophthalmology—plenty for the medical student, an excellent grounding for the budding ophthalmologist, and a first class reference for the general practitioner and specialists in other fields of medicine. The authors also stress throughout the book, the important part the ophthalmologist plays in the early diagnosis of many medical conditions. This new edition is a complete revision of the last. The chapters on optics have been entirely re-written by Mr Montague Ruben of Moorfields Eye Hospital, these three chapters deal in moderate detail with the theoretical and practical aspects of clinical refraction. The text contains many pictures and diagrams together with 24 most excellent coloured plates. Any textbook which still sells after 62 years in print is a testimony unto itself. This really is a first class book worthy of a place on any doctor's bookshelf and at 70/- good value for money.

Paul Wood's diseases of the heart and circulation. Third edition. London. Eyre and Spottiswoode. 1968. Pp. xvii+1164. Price £10 10s. 0d.

The first edition was published in 1950 and since then Paul Wood's continued influence on nearly all aspects of cardiology has been profound. It is even possible to observe this influence when reviewing other books on cardiology, especially those of younger men. Paul Wood died during the preparation of this edition, and for a time it appeared that world medicine would be denied the advantage of this great work. However, a number of his colleagues and students named in the preface, collaborated to finish it.

It is presumptuous to offer any criticism of a book of such authority and importance, but as it stands on such a pinnacle it is legitimate for the ordinary reader to mention difficulties encountered in reading it. Your reviewer has never found it easy to follow Paul Wood's descriptions of electrocardiography. To some extent the present edition has been improved by a clearer description of the spatial vector principle in the special chapter on electrocardiography, but the whole subject is a mixture of old and new throughout the book and could be improved in future editions.

Much of the book has been re-written, it is up to date, has been enlarged by some 150 pages and, a sign of the times, the price has been doubled.