

detailed description of serum proteins, hormones, enzymes and the mechanism of blood clotting. The sections on immunology and serology and the diagnosis of liver and renal disease are of considerable interest. The chapter on enzymes includes readable summaries of lactic acid dehydrogenase and serum transaminase tests and of their value when diagnosing myocardial infarction; the section on serology includes the application of serological immunological techniques over a wide range of common clinical conditions from virus diseases, through antibody reactions following specific drug therapy, to their application in the diagnosis of rheumatic fever and rheumatoid arthritis.

Arterial Hypertension and Ischaemic Heart Disease—Comparison in Epidemiological Studies. A. M. BURGESS, Jr., M.D., ZDENEK FEJFAR, M.D., D.SC., and AUBREY KAGAN, M.B., M.R.C.P., D.P.H. Geneva. World Health Organization. London. H.M. Stationery Office. 1963. Pp. i + 36.

The purpose of this, implicit in the title, is to enable research workers all over the world to conduct their research in arterial hypertension and ischaemic heart disease in such a way that their results will be comparable. It is emphasized that much valuable research has been and is being done, but that a great part of it is valueless from the epidemiological standpoint because investigators use different standards and it is difficult or impossible to correlate the results.

The recorded incidence of these diseases is increasing; how much of this increase is real and how much is due to a heightened awareness on the part of doctors? One step in the solution of this problem is a general acceptance of a definition of ischaemic heart disease, and one is given. Techniques must be standardized; what level of blood pressure indicates hypertension? When cuff-pressure is released, which of the sounds indicates the level of diastolic pressure? At what speed should cuff-pressure be released? Should blood pressures be recorded to the nearest 5 or 2 mm. Hg.? These and many similar details which tend to be taken for granted are discussed and the importance of agreed standards stressed. Electrocardiography and its interpretation are similarly critically discussed.

Arterial hypertension and ischaemic heart disease are attractive subjects for general-practitioner research and anyone so engaged would do well to give close attention to the standards laid down in this publication.

Occlusion of the Superior Mesenteric Artery. BENJAMIN B. JACKSON, M.D., F.R.C.S. Springfield, Illinois, U.S.A. Charles C. Thomas. 1963. Pp. xiv + 141. Price \$7.50.

During the last fifteen years, as surgeons have become increasingly skilled in the technique of vascular surgery, it is not surprising that they have been tackling with growing success the challenge to their courage