

**Clinical Genodermatology.** THOMAS BUTTERWORTH, A.B., M.D., MED.SC.M., and LYON P. STREAN, D.DS., M.S.PH.D. London. Baillière, Tindall & Cox Ltd. 1963. Pp. vii + 221. Price 108s.

Pathological processes result from the reactions of body tissues to disease-provoking stimuli. To a large extent, these reactions are governed by inherited mechanisms which, if abnormal, may allow diseases to develop in response to stimuli which, in other circumstances, would be regarded as normal. *Clinical Genodermatology*, deals with disorders of the skin and mucous membranes, resulting from the inheritance of a dominant or recessive gene, or from the presence of an abnormal number of chromosomes.

Covering a very wide range of diseases, some common, such as psoriasis and freckles, and some rare, such as xeroderma pigmentosa and dyskeratosis congenita, the book also deals with conditions in which the skin manifestations play only a part, such as Turner's syndrome, phenylketonuria and gout. Each section, describing a disease process, gives only a brief outline of the differential diagnosis and treatment, but it is clearly assumed that the reader already has a sound knowledge of dermatology.

The classification of chapters is by clinical manifestations rather than by the type of abnormal inheritance, so that albinism is placed in the same chapter as familial jaundice, and mongolism in the same chapter as gout. Nevertheless, the subject matter is, in general, well ordered, the descriptions of the diseases are clear and well written, and the many black and white photographs are excellent. Each chapter is followed by a short list of important references.

Since much of the book deals with rare disorders, its value for the general practitioner lies mainly in the broadening of one's basic conception of the role of inheritance in the pathogenesis of skin disorders.

Although many practitioners might not find a niche for this work on their bookshelves, it can be recommended to anyone interested in the influence of inheritance on the causation of disease.

**The Newly Born Infant.** Second Edition. ANDREW BROGAN, M.D., M.R.C.P.E., D.C.H. A Tutorial System Publication—Paediatric Series. 1963. Ontario. McAinsh & Co., Ltd. and Christchurch, New Zealand. N. M. Peryer Ltd. Pp. v+42.

This is a book written mainly for the medical student, for use during his paediatric clerking. It is written throughout in note form, and facing each page of notes is a blank page for the addition of further notes by the student. The completed book will therefore be of great value to the student reading for finals. This is not a text-book and it is not the author's intention that it should be.

This book is short consisting of 42 printed pages only, however, since it is written in note form an extensive field is covered. The notes are well set out, and clearly printed in large type; with many headings either picked out in capitals or underlined. There are some spelling mistakes in

the text, horicebrin on page 31, and microcephaly on page 34, also hydrops foetalis, is usually printed as two words, and not one as on page 36.

There is no index, but a comprehensive table of contents is printed at the front of the book.

This will be a useful book for the medical student, and also possibly as the author suggests for the sister-tutor and clerical tutor. It will be of little use to the general practitioner.

**Antibodies.** Edited by E. J. HOLBORROW. British Medical Bulletin. Vol. 19, No. 3, 1963: The British Council. Price 30s.

This is instructive but not easy reading. Professor A. A. Miles' introduction traces the story from 1890 to present times. Then follow chapters on the nature of the reaction between antigen and antibody, on detecting, isolating and characterizing antibodies, on using them as cytological tools, on the structure and metabolism of gamma-globulins and on factors affecting the antibody response, on immunological competence, on antitoxins, reagins and the cytotoxic action of antibodies and on auto-antibodies in experimental animals and human disease. Family doctors will naturally find most interest in a chapter on the response of young infants to active immunization.

**Emergency Service Manual.** JOHN H. SCHNEEWIND, M.D. Chicago. Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc. London. Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd. 1963. Pp. v+246. Price 34s.

This small volume is really written for the prospective and actual casualty house officer, or to quote the book "The Emergency Room Physician". It is, however, a useful book for the general practitioner since, albeit briefly, it covers nearly all the emergencies that may be seen in general practice. There is an excellent index and the illustrations, limited in number, are good. A useful book to carry in the general practitioner's bag.

**Elsevier's Medical Dictionary.** English/American, French, Italian, Spanish and German. Compiled by A. SLOSBERG. Amsterdam, London, New York. Elsevier Publishing Company. 1964. Pp. ii+1588. Price 250s.

This is a dictionary of medical terms and nosological titles. It contains 18,341 entries in column. Each entry is in alphabetical order in English first and its equivalent in French, Italian, Spanish and German in the following columns. Thus to take a simple example it is easy to find that the three letter word "hum" is equally descriptive but far less economically described in the other languages as *bourdonnement*, *sussurro* or *ronzio*, *zumbido*, *Sausen* or *Summen*.

The list is followed by an index of synonyms in each language so that