

portance is the use of oxygen in the later stages, and Dr. I. Nashimoto claims that its use will shorten decompression time by one-third or one-half. However, it introduces a very serious fire risk for which special precautions are essential.

The proceedings of this symposium give an extremely wide and efficient survey of the current problems and a wealth of valuable information, including a number of decompression tables. The editor has obviously taken a great deal of care in presentation. Many readers may not like the string of questions and answers after various chapters, but in this case they are exceptionally well presented and add greatly to the publication as a whole. Though at the moment this field is a limited one, it is bound to grow, and the present volume will become an authoritative book of reference.

STANLEY MILES.

Transplantation of Organs and Tissues

Transplantation von Organen und Geweben. Edited by Dr. K. E. Seiffert and Dr. R. Geissendorfer. (Pp. 240 + vii ; illustrated. DM. 58.) Stuttgart : Georg Thieme. 1967.

This book contains some 40 research reports, about half being in English and the others in German and French. Most of the leading workers in the field of homografting in Europe are represented. It suffers from the usual defects of symposia on wide and rapidly advancing fields in that the background contributions, such as those on antibody formation and tolerance, are either too small or too great. Too small because the whole range of immunological mechanisms cannot be covered (for instance, cellular reactivity is hardly mentioned) ; too great because what is given cannot be relevant at all points to the practical problems.

For this reason the book is only really suitable for research workers or surgeons with a fairly wide knowledge of current immuno-

logical theory and research ; for them there are many papers of great interest, and adequate references. There are reports of experience with grafts other than renal—of cornea, cardiac valve, liver, and nerve, for example—which are useful in a book of this type, and indicate that quite different kinds of problem may arise if such tissues are used. Not all the contributions are of equal value, but so many interesting ideas are put forward, in both the formal presentations and the discussion, that it cannot fail to be stimulating to workers in the field, and be a valuable source book for many techniques.

P. G. H. GELL.

"Chronological" Versus "Functional" Age

Age and Function. By Alastair Heron and Sheila Chown. (Pp. 182 + x ; illustrated. 45s.) London : J. & A. Churchill. 1967.

Retirement at 65 is becoming the accepted practice, for a variety of reasons. Already there is not enough alternative work for elderly employees and it is likely to become even scarcer as mechanization increases ; sickness absence is much more prevalent after 60 ; and the organization of part-time work for those beyond pensionable age does not appear to appeal greatly to employers. Heron and Chown believe that industry ought to know how far chronological age, physical health, and mental alertness are related and seek to find out if the concept of "functional age" is a useful one.

The work on which their book is based was carried out on Merseyside by the team who formed the staff of the Medical Research Council unit for Research on Occupational Aspects of Ageing. The team consisted essentially of experimental psychologists, of whom several had some physiological training, but they were without the services of a medically qualified member. Having created

a panel of subjects drawn from men and women of ages between 20 and 79 years, matched at different ages according to related criteria of sex, intelligence, and personality, the authors studied a range of functions. Psychological, physical, sensory, and physiological attributes were measured. The psychological measures consisted of eight tests of cognitive ability and two personality inventories. The physical measures included height, weight, and circumference of upper arm. Measures were obtained of visual and auditory acuity ; and the physiological variables studied were systolic and diastolic blood pressure, pulse rate, ventilatory capacity, and sleep habits. The authors regard the norms established for these as one of the most useful contributions emerging from their study.

They conclude that chronological age is a poor guide, since individuals vary enormously at any given age in respect of almost all human characteristics, and this variation increases with age. Since ageing is not a unitary process, performance potential should be assessed on the functions relevant to a particular situation. Many factors have to be considered besides ability—perseverance, sense of responsibility, and response to group pressures, to mention only a few. It is suggested that the most practical form in which functional data can be presented is the "profile." Each function can then be considered separately and in relation to the demands of the job.

There are many questions in the field of ageing to which only long-term studies of the same individuals can provide satisfactory answers and, as the authors say, the value of such studies would be greatly enhanced if they were carried out in co-operation with medical practitioners and hospitals. They wonder whether it is realistic to hope that such co-operation could be organized and sustained over the fifteen years or so that would be necessary for satisfactory study. It would certainly be very difficult.

T. FERGUSON.

Books Received

Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.

Le Diabète Sucré. By Georges Pathe. (Pp. 337 ; illustrated. 48 F.) Paris : Librairie Maloine. 1968.

Integrative Activity of the Brain. An Interdisciplinary Approach. By Jerzy Konorski, M.D. (Pp. 531 + xii ; illustrated. £6 15s.) London : University of Chicago Press. 1968.

Lehrbuch der Allgemeinen Pathologie. By Professor Gottfried Holle. (Pp. 738 + xviii ; illustrated. £4 19s.) Jena : Gustav Fischer. 1967.

Private Practice in Britain. By Samuel Mencher. (Pp. 95. 18s.) London : G. Bell. 1968.

Maladie de Dupuytren. Dupuytren's Contracture. Edited by Groupe d'Etude de la Main. (Pp. 135 ; illustrated. 41 F.) Paris : Expansion Scientifique Francaise. 1967.

First Holloman Symposium on Primate Immunology and Molecular Genetics. Primates in Medicine. Vol. 1. By C. H. Kratochvil. (Pp. 99 + xv ; illustrated. 30s.) London : Academic Press. 1968.

The Urinary Tract. Roentgen Diagnosis. By John R. Thornbury, M.D., and David A. Culp, M.D. (Pp. 431 ; illustrated. £6 2s.) Chichester, Sussex : John Wiley. 1968.

Individuality in Pain and Suffering. By Asenath Petrie. (Pp. 153 + xvii ; illustrated. 45s.) London : University of Chicago Press. 1968.

The Biology of Dreaming. By Ernest Hartmann, M.D. (Pp. 206 + vii ; illustrated. \$9.75.) Springfield, Illinois : Charles C. Thomas. 1967.

Beiträge zur Klinischen Krebsforschung. Edited by Professor Albrecht Gläser. (Pp. 304 ; illustrated. £2 18s.) Leipzig : Karl-Marx-Universität. 1967.

Surgical Specialties. Clinical Anesthesia 3/1966. Edited by Donald W. Benson. (Pp. 210 + xi ; illustrated. 40s.) Oxford : Blackwell. 1967.

Buildings for General Medical Practice. Prepared by the General Practice Advisory Service Limited. (Pp. 35 ; illustrated. 6s. 9d.) London : H.M. Stationery Office. 1967.

Surgical Urology. 3rd edition. By R. H. Flocks, M.D., and David A. Culp, M.D. (Pp. 510 ; illustrated. £5 17s.) Chichester, Sussex : John Wiley. 1968.

Medical Photography of Patients. By Eileen M. Brown. (Pp. 111 + xii ; illustrated. £1 15s.) London : H. K. Lewis. 1968.

Macromolecular Synthesis and Growth. Edited by Ronald A. Malt, M.D. (Pp. 251 + xxi ; illustrated. 82s. 6d.) London : J. & A. Churchill. 1967.

Acute Glomerulonephritis. Proceedings, 7th Annual Conference on the Kidney sponsored by National Kidney Foundation, New York. Edited by Jack Metcoff, M.D. (Pp. 437 + xxii ; illustrated. £6 10s.) London : J. & A. Churchill. 1967.

La Culture d'Organes. By Michel Sigot. (Pp. 126 ; illustrated. No price given.) Paris : Presses Universitaires de France. 1968.

A Stereotaxic Atlas of the Java Monkey Brain (Macaca irus). By Totada R. Shantha, Sohan L. Manocha, and Geoffrey H. Bourne. (65 illustrated plates. 69s.) London : Academic Press. 1968.

Electroencephalography for Anesthesiologists and Surgeons. By Max S. Sadove, M.D., Dorothy Becka, and Frederic A. Gibbs, M.D. (Pp. 95 + vii ; illustrated. 90s.) London : Pitman. 1968.