

number of tissues; the other (by S. J. Piliero, M. S. Jacobs, and S. Wischnitzer) is much more comprehensive and provides photographs at three different magnifications of the majority of the tissues of the human body.

Histology cannot be taught to the beginner by pictures alone. Actual specimens must be examined and interpreted by the student himself. Freeman and Bracegirdle have made a real contribution to this process by showing both a photograph and an interpreting diagram of a large number of high quality sections of salient tissues, and these examples should certainly help the beginner to interpret his own sections. In many cases the student with an inquiring mind may wonder upon what grounds the interpretations are made. So much the better; he may be stimulated to probe more deeply.

The other book is an album of beautiful photographs with the minimum of letterpress. The whole thing is very competently produced, but educationally it is based on unsound principles. Firstly, the photograph alone is, in general, not the best way of portraying the details of histological structure—the three-dimensional character of the material is lost. Secondly, the memorizing of superficial appearances, which this book may encourage, is not a substitute for personal investigation, drawing, and interpretation. Thirdly, the use of colour can be very helpful (as it is for example in the frontispiece to the work by Freeman and Bracegirdle) and should not be neglected. Fourthly, all the material used is human. This may be desirable in some ways but “what should they know of England who only England know?” Fifthly, it is claimed in the preface that “the primary objective for the beginning student in courses of histology is to learn microscopic structure.” This tenet has been responsible for the boredom of medical students in histology classes for the last fifty years and for the narrow-minded belief that histology is “done” when the examination is passed. The primary objective of the beginning student of histology is to study the microscopical appearance, organization, and behaviour of cells and tissues under a variety of conditions, and to attempt to comprehend how the life of the whole organism can possibly result from the various phenomena which can be observed to occur in its tissues, cells, and subcellular particles. On this basis, histology will still not be “done” even when a long and interesting life has been passed.

E. N. WILLMER.

Facets of Gynaecology

Gynecology. Edited by Robert A. Kimbrough, M.D., F.A.C.O.G. (Pp. 619+xiv; illustrated. £5 5s.) London: Pitman. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott. 1965.

This work is the result of a collaborative effort by 27 distinguished American gynaecologists, under the editorship of an emeritus professor of obstetrics and gynaecology of the University of Pennsylvania. Thirteen states of the Union are represented. Dr. Kimbrough in his preface emphasizes that gynaecology is a subject with many facets, and that it is no longer a branch of general surgery. His intention had been originally to produce a personal monograph, but he had soon realized how inadequate such a presentation would be to cover the wide scope of the subject. He gracefully thanks his 27 colleagues for contributing chapters in their individual fields of interest.

The result of this collaboration has all the strengths and all the weaknesses of such ventures. As a series of essays it is excellent. As a textbook it is less rewarding. While the editor has succeeded surprisingly in the avoidance of duplication, the work suffers because it has not been clearly decided for which section of the reading public it is designed. The individual chapters are unnecessarily full for the medical student, and yet the range of subjects is not wide enough to completely satisfy the graduate student preparing himself for a higher examination. As an intellectual relaxation for the trained gynaecologist the book has much to commend it, but as such it is rather expensive and lacks immediate topicality. It is not unfair to suggest, however, that the chapter entitled “Psychosomatics in Gynaecology” is urbane, timeless, and wholly delightful.

W. I. C. MORRIS.

Prevention by Prediction?

Sex Offenders. An Analysis of Types. By Paul H. Gebhard, John H. Gagnon, Wardell B. Pomeroy, and Cornelia V. Christenson. (Pp. 923+xxxiv. £5 5s.) London: William Heinemann. 1966.

Two of the four authors were co-authors of the famous Kinsey reports. The present study was based on interviews with over

1,500 men convicted for a wide variety of sex offences. The authors could draw on their previous studies of non-offenders to form control groups for comparison. When Kinsey and his associates published their results doubts were expressed whether the persons whose sexual behaviour they had studied were representative of the general population to which they belonged. This work gives rise to similar doubts. It is not a study of typical samples of sexual pervers. A sex offender is defined as “a person who has been legally convicted as the result of an overt act committed by him for his own immediate sexual gratification, which is contrary to the prevailing sexual mores of the society in which he lives and/or is legally punishable.” Only white offenders were included. It is known for at least one group—that is, the homosexual with an adult partner—that the ones legally convicted are not representative of the whole group, and the same may be true of other groups. The authors are aware of the limitations of their study, the purpose of which was to determine if and how persons convicted of sex offences differed from those who had not been so convicted. The following factors were compared: age, rural-urban distribution, education, religion, marital status, occupation, and socio-economic status. Early life, sexual history, and criminality outside the sexual sphere were recorded in every case.

The study resulted in an enormous and highly diverse amount of data impossible to summarize. No common denominator for all sex offenders emerged. The data suggested that there were two broad classes of sex offences: (1) Those falling within the cultural norms but for various reasons inappropriate and therefore punishable. Society should learn to put up with them. This advice refers to the United States sex legislation, which badly needs to be brought up to date. (2) Offences consisting of uncommon and pathological behaviour. On these offenders society should focus attention and be prepared to spend money for detention, treatment, and research. The authors are confident that the data they collected should make it possible to predict with an accuracy better than chance what sort of sex offence an individual would commit, were he to commit one.

This is an impressive study which, in spite of its limitations, makes a substantial contribution to the knowledge of important social, legal, and psychopathological problems.

E. STENGEL.

Books Received

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

The Hypodermic Injection: A Programmed Unit. By Elizabeth A. Krueger. (Illustrated. 45s.) London: Pitman. 1966.

Food Storage in the Home. By R. C. Hutchinson, D.Sc. (Pp. 115; illustrated. 21s.) London: Edward Arnold. 1966.

An Introduction to Social Medicine. By Thomas McKeown, M.D., Ph.D., D.Phil., F.R.C.P., and C. R. Lowe, M.D., Ph.D., D.P.H. (Pp. 327+xiii; illustrated. 50s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1966.

The Psychoanalytic Revolution. Sigmund Freud's Life and Achievement. By Marthe Robert. Translated by Kenneth Morgan. (Pp. 396. 50s.) London: George Allen. 1966.

Histology. By C. Roland Leeson, M.D., and Thomas S. Leeson, M.D. (Pp. 492+ix; illustrated. £2 16s.) London: W. B. Saunders. 1966.

An Introduction to Electrocardiography. 3rd edition. By L. Schamroth, M.D.(Rand), M.R.C.P.(Edin.), M.R.C.P.(Glasg.). (Pp. 196+x; illustrated. 20s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1966.

Entrainement Chirurgical O.R.L. By P. Pazat and J. Bastien. (Pp. 215; illustrated. 48 F.) Paris: Librairie Maloine. 1967.

Spontaneous Regression of Cancer. By Tilden C. Everson, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.S., and Warren H. Cole, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.R.C.S.(Eng.Hon.), F.R.C.S.(Edin.Hon.). (Pp. 560+vii; illustrated. £7.) London: W. B. Saunders. 1966.

The Paediatric Prescriber. 3rd edition. By Pincus Catzel, M.B., B.Ch.(Rand), M.R.C.P.(Edin.), D.C.H. R.C.P.&S.(Eng.). (Pp. 213+xviii. 22s. 6d.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1966.

General Endocrinology. 4th edition. By C. Donnell Turner, Ph.D. (Pp. 579+xiv; illustrated. £3 10s.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders. 1966.

Hämodialyse. By Dr. K. W. Fritz. (Pp. 182+viii; illustrated. DM. 32.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1966.