

## Electronmicroscopy of the Kidney

**Ultrastructure of the Kidney.** Ultrastructure in Biological Systems. Vol. 2. Edited by Albert J. Dalton and Françoise Haguenau. (Pp. 240+x; illustrated. £5 12s.) London and New York: Academic Press. 1967.

This monograph is Volume 2 of a series of books dealing with modern research on ultrastructure in biological systems. The contributors are distinguished investigators from Belgium, Canada, France, and the U.S.A. Four of the five chapters deal with the normal electronmicroscopical appearances of glomerular mesangium, renal tubular cells, and the juxtaglomerular apparatus, while the fifth is concerned with pathological changes in the glomerulus in nephritis and other renal diseases. The book is well illustrated by high quality electronmicrographs, and these will be of inestimable value to expert workers in this rapidly advancing field.

Interesting conclusions from the vast amount of data presented include the following: The main functions of mesangial cells in the glomeruli are support of the capillary loops and phagocytosis of large molecular weight compounds. The basement membrane of the glomerulus has a gel type of structure which may allow passage of surprisingly large structures even up to the size of erythrocytes. Granulation of the juxtaglomerular apparatus always parallels the renin content of the cells; the juxtaglomerular apparatus is both barosensitive and chemosensitive to the electrolyte content of the urine within the distal convoluted tubule. Changes in the ultrastructure of the glomerulus occur before the development of significant proteinuria, and at a time when there is no abnormality discernible by light microscopy.

While this monograph will be essential reading to electronmicroscopists, everyone

interested in the function and structure of the kidney in health and disease will find many of the illustrations and the less specialized portions of the text of great importance and value. The editors and authors are to be congratulated on making this invaluable text available to medical men studying the diverse aspects of renal physiology and pathology.

M. D. MILNE.

## Surgery Premises

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

This should prove a very valuable work of reference for any general practitioners contemplating building their own practice premises. It is full of useful information and guidance. My only regret is that it is not more readable, but it is well indexed, and this makes it possible to find the information that you want.

It starts quite rightly by assessing the content of general practice, not so much as it has been in the past but as it should be in the future. Group practice is no longer a simple question of several doctors working together, but of a group of doctors working as part of a general-practice team in which nurses, health visitors, secretaries, and receptionists must all play their part. In this context I hope this publication will be read by the local health authorities, who in many instances still show a deplorable lack of vision over the proper integration of nurses into the general-practice team.

The importance is stressed of premises being planned on a functional basis, in relation to patient-flow on the one hand and communication within the group on the other. An irrefutable case is made out for patients being seen by appointment. The authors point out that "a restful, non-institutional environment" should be achieved in the waiting-room. I am only sorry they have not taken this further and applied it also to the consulting-rooms. In view of the psychological and emotional content of general practice there is a very strong case to be made for getting away from the coldly clinical white enamel and plastic tiles. More information would have been helpful on the subject of methods and materials for heating and ventilating and insulating. Waiting-rooms, for example, constitute a special problem. They need to be warm when patients arrive, but rapidly become too hot and stuffy when full of patients, and flexibility in their heating and ventilating is essential. Exhaust fans may well have a place in this situation. In more general terms, acoustic tiles, double-glazing, and carpets all help to insulate the building, not only for heat but also for sound. The erstwhile obsession with examination-rooms seems to be dying a natural death, and fully equipped spare consulting-rooms are being accepted as more useful and more economical.

It seems a tragedy that with all this help, and much more available through the General Practice Advisory Service, the general practitioners themselves were not far-sighted enough to see that it was in their interests to pay fees for this help, and so keep this valuable service going. In most cases the fee was saved ten times over in the economies and improvements that resulted from having specialist help. Unless the service can be revived this publication will have to stand as its memorial.

ALLEN J. WHITAKER.

## Books Received

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

**6th International Congress of Clinical Chemistry.** Munich (Germany), 1966. Vol. 1 (4 vols.). Clinical Protein Chemistry. Edited by O. Wieland. (Pp. 119+iv; illustrated. 74s.) London: Academic Press. 1968.

**6th International Congress of Clinical Chemistry.** Munich (Germany), 1966. Vol. 2 (4 vols.). Clinical Enzymology. Edited by O. Wieland. (Pp. 160+iv; illustrated. 96s.) London: Academic Press. 1968.

**6th International Congress of Clinical Chemistry.** Munich (Germany), 1966. Vol. 3 (4 vols.). Progress in Clinico-Chemical Methods. Edited by O. Wieland. (Pp. 107+iv; illustrated. 68s.) London: Academic Press. 1968.

**6th International Congress of Clinical Chemistry.** Munich (Germany), 1966. Vol. 4 (4 vols.). Advances in Clinico-Biochemical Research. Edited by O. Wieland. (Pp. 100+iv; illustrated. 62s.) London: Academic Press. 1968.

**Philosophy & Ethics in Medicine.** Edited by M. Gelfand. (Pp. 174+viii. 21s.) Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1968.

**Children in Care.** Papers on Residential Work. Vol. 1. Edited by Robert J. N. Tod, M.A., A.A.P.S.W., and foreword by Sir Alan Moncrieff, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.O.G. (Pp. 115+xiii. 12s. 6d.) London: Longmans. 1968.

**Disturbed Children.** Papers on Residential Work. Vol. 2. Edited by Robert J. N. Tod, M.A., A.A.P.S.W., with foreword by D. W. Winnicott, M.A., F.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. (Pp. 132+xii. 12s. 6d.) London: Longmans. 1968.

**The Elderly.** Handbook on Care and Services. Published for the National Old People's Welfare Council by the National Council of Social Service. (Pp. 122. 8s. 6d.) 1968.

**Genetics for "O" Level.** Edited by J. J. Head and N. R. Dennis. Foreword by Professor J. A. Roper. (Pp. 137+ix; illustrated. 10s.) London and Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd. 1968.

**Theory and Practice of Family Psychiatry.** By John G. Howells, M.D., D.P.M. (Pp. 953+xi. £9 9s.) Edinburgh and London: Oliver & Boyd. 1968.

**Man and Heredity.** By G. M. Roderick. (Pp. 240+ix; illustrated. £1 17s. 6d.) London, Melbourne, Toronto: Macmillan. 1968.

**Bacteriology Illustrated.** Edited by R. R. Gillies, M.D., D.P.H., M.C.Path., and T. C. Dodds, F.I.M.L.T., F.I.I.P., F.R.P.S. Foreword by R. Cruickshank, M.B., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., F.R.S.E. (Pp. 198+xi; illustrated. 47s. 6d.) Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1968.

**Tuberculose du Système Lymphatique Pharyngo-Cervical.** Edited by H. Guillon, F. Baron, J. Gaillard, R. Batisse, P. Poncet, and M. Oury. (Pp. 269; illustrated. 60 F.) Paris: Librairie Arnette. 1967.

**Advances in Applied Microbiology.** Vol. 9. Edited by Wayne W. Umbreit. (Pp. 300+xiv; illustrated. 130s.) London and New York: Academic Press. 1968.

**Current Therapy.** Edited by Howard F. Conn, M.D. (Pp. 898+xxxvi. £5 19s.) London: W. B. Saunders. 1968.

**Retaining Ligaments of the Digits of the Hand.** By L. W. Milford, jun., B.S., M.D., M.S. (Pp. 60+viii; illustrated. £5 10s. 6d.) Philadelphia, London, Toronto: W. B. Saunders. 1968.

**The Impending Medical Revolution.** By Deryck Taverner, M.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 190; illustrated. £1 12s. 6d.) London: Hodder & Stoughton. 1968.