

chapter 13 by L. M. Davey on "Neuro-surgical Aspects of Vertigo." A detailed contribution on the neurological aspects of vertigo would have been a welcome and appropriate addition to the book. The several contributions by the editor, Dr. M. Spector, reflect his great interest and his knowledge of the subject from the viewpoint of the otologist. Some aspects of the subject, notably the odontological and the psychological, may be thought to be given more attention than their relevance deserves.

The general result is like the proverbial curate's egg, "good in parts," and the general effect is to dazzle rather than to illuminate.

I enjoyed reading this book on a subject in which I have a special interest, and there is no doubt that all who study neuro-otology will appreciate it. If it is to be of interest and help the general medical reader it will need a more detailed introduction to guide him through the intricate labyrinth of the subject.

TERENCE CAWTHORNE.

## Laboratory Manual in Virology

**Virological Procedures.** By J. Mitchell Hoskins, M.A., Ph.D. (Pp. 358 +xiv; illustrated. 70s.) London: Butterworth. 1967.

There are now so many books concerned with virological procedures that one expects additional information to justify the publication of another one. This book has been written with the laboratory worker in mind, and as such its place is in the laboratory as a rapid source of reference. It has been based on a course of diagnostic virology held at the University of Sheffield but greatly expanded in subject matter and brought up to date.

There are five sections, dealing with the basic facilities, the isolation of viruses from clinical material, the identification of viruses, the serological diagnosis of virus infections, and the application of these techniques to particular virus groups. The design of the laboratory is open to criticism, and it is doubtful whether it has a place in a book of this kind. Although there is much to be said for a central medium, cell culture, and glassware supply area, it would be more satisfactory to deal with different viruses in isolated hoods. The sterilization of glassware and preparation of cell cultures is dealt with in sufficient detail to be a useful guide. A warning against the possible explosion of ampoules stored in liquid nitrogen should

have been included, and a mention of the precautions necessary in handling monkey tissue would have been useful. The collection of clinical specimens is a useful section, since the mishandling of the material at this stage can play a major part in the failure to isolate viruses. The use of tissue cultures, embryonated eggs, and laboratory animals for virus isolations are well presented, though the belief that SV40 virus does not give a cytopathic effect in rhesus monkey kidney cell cultures should be corrected. To attempt a comprehensive treatise on the identification of any of some 320 viruses isolated from man in one section of a book is an enormous task, but the fundamentals are adequately covered. The serological techniques such as complement fixation, haemagglutination-inhibition, and neutralization are dealt with in detail, including the methods used for the preparation of the reagents. The final section presents in tabular form the relevant information required for the identification of the members of the particular virus groups, but in attempting to present so much material the tables are not clear. The appendices give useful details of media and stains for histological techniques.

A very serious fault of the book is the absence of references to the original publication of any of the procedures described. Techniques are constantly being modified and it is sometimes essential to check the original reference. The division of the book into five independent sections has resulted in a great deal of unnecessary repetition. The book has no place on the library shelves, and at 70s. is not likely to be bought by many individuals. It is, however, a useful laboratory manual.

F. T. PERKINS.

## Nineteenth Century Hospital Care in Paris

**Medicine at the Paris Hospital. 1794-1848.** By Erwin H. Ackerknecht, M.D. (Pp. 242 +xiv; illustrated. 72s.) Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press. London: Oxford University Press. 1967.

The period covered by Professor Ackerknecht in a scholarly review of the medical services in Paris dates from 1788, when J. R. Tenon drew up a report at the request of Louis XVI, to the creation of the Assistance Publique in 1849. He shows that in spite of the chaos and emergencies resulting from the Revolution important reforms in hospitals were instituted by the Convention (1792-5), and

were continued throughout the periods of the Directory and the Consulate. In 1793, for instance, it was ordained that every patient would be entitled to his individual bed and must no longer share with others. Centralized facilities were planned and supplied, with a pharmacy, a bakery, and an admission bureau; before long better operating-theatres were to be provided. A commendable reform, yet to be achieved in British hospitals, was the creation of a central wine cellar.

Medical care seems to have improved appreciably after the establishment of internships with competitive examinations in the year 1802, and the importance of sound and regular teaching was by that time fully recognized. French medicine benefited, and in fact for many years led the way, because of the encouragement given by the faculty to the study of pathological anatomy in the era of Bichat which immediately preceded the exciting discoveries in medical microscopy. The mortality rate in French general hospitals in the decade before the Battle of Waterloo was 1 in 5.35. By 1850 this ratio had improved to 1 in 11.

The author deals effectively and succinctly with many aspects of French medicine in this age of the stethoscope. He tells of the state of therapeutics, hygiene, the various specialties, the medical school, medical societies and journals, and of the impetus given to surgery by the Napoleonic wars. There are brief biographies and appraisals of the celebrated teachers, including Pinel, Bichat, Broussais, Corvisart, Bayle, Laennec and the eclectics, Louis, Andral, and Trousseau, the last of whom enjoyed the tremendous advantage of being already a professor of rhetoric before he started to read medicine. There is a concluding chapter on foreign students which serves to remind us that American postgraduates abandoned London as a clinical centre in favour of Paris in the unfortunate year of 1812. As the fame of the Paris faculty continued to grow American postgraduates were soon joined by many from the United Kingdom, most of whom were to become men of distinction in their time. Of all countries, however, Germany seems at this particular period of French medical history to have provided the largest number of postgraduate students.

This attractively produced volume includes many pleasing vignettes reproduced from Honoré Daumier's illustrations in A. F. H. Fabre's *Némésis Médicale* (Paris, 1840). The numerous references in the text are conveniently relegated to the end of the book.

W. H. McMENEY.

## Books Received

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

**Spare-Part Surgery. The Surgical Practice of the Future.** By Donald Longmore. Edited and illustrated by M. Ross-Macdonald. (Pp. 192; illustrated. £1 2s. 6d.) London: Aldus Books. 1968.

**Pathology of Tumours. Fourth Edition.** By R. A. Willis, D.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., F.R.A.C.P., Hon. LL.D.(Glasgow). (Pp. 1,019 +xiv+41; illustrated. £7 15s.) London: Butterworths. 1968.

**Oeuvres médicales.** By Bernard Gorceix. (Pp. 259 +xvi. 24 F.) Paris: Presses Universitaires de France. 1968.

**Myelography.** 2nd edition. By Robert Shapiro, M.D. (Pp. 440; illustrated. £11 4s.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc. 1968.

**Planning for Hospital Expansion and Remodeling.** By Donald C. Carner. Foreword by Ray E. Brown. (Pp. 112 +xvi; illustrated. \$8.50.) Springfield: Charles C. Thomas. 1967.

**Le Diabète de l'Enfant et de l'Adolescent.** By H. Lestrade, J. Besse, and P. Grenet. (Pp. 352; illustrated. 52 F.) Paris: Librairie Maloine S.A. 1968.

**Nucleus and Cytoplasm.** By Henry Harris. (Pp. 142 +xv; illustrated. Boards £1 10s.; paper covers 15s.) Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1968.

**The Transactions of the Hunterian Society, 1966-67.** Hon. editors C. W. Kesson and W. C. Sears. (Pp. 220; illustrated. No price given.) London: Hunterian Society. 1968.

**Adventure in Psychiatry. Second Edition.** By Denis V. Martin. (Pp. 218 +ix. £1 10s.) Oxford: Bruno Cassirer. 1968.

**The Body.** Edited by Anthony Smith. (Pp. 552. 50s.) London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd. 1968.