

are discussed and interesting observations made on ovulation, especially fragmented follicular release, and ovum transfer. The 32-page chapter on pneumoperitoneum, however, seems unnecessary and could have been much reduced, while the three chapters relating to infertility contain much basic information which should be assumed. The type is large and clear and the text is liberally illustrated by photographs and line drawings. The book could have been shortened by the omission of many of the latter, which tend to labour fairly obvious points described in the text. For example, over half a page is devoted to arrowed air entering a cannula and then the pouch of Douglas. The 63 culdoscopic colour photographs, however, are of high quality and form a valuable reference, more than compensating for any other deficiencies.

Intended as it is for beginner and experienced practitioner alike, detailed descriptions of all procedures are inevitable, although to specialists in gynaecology there may seem an excess of elementary details, including a page on the technique of vaginal examination. While not detracting from its value to aspiring culdoscopists a reduction in length would have reduced the not inconsiderable price and made it more readily salable. The author believes that one person in each infertility clinic should be experienced in culdoscopy; if this is so, then this would be the prescribed reading.

DONALD MORRISON.

## Clinical Cytology

**Diagnostic Cell Pathology in Tissue and Smears.** By Herbert E. Nieburgs, M.D. (Pp. 310+x; illustrated. \$17.50.) New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1967.

Dr. Nieburgs states in his preface that now cytopathology plays such an important role in clinical medicine it is no longer adequate for reports to convey the uncertainty expressed by numerical classification of atypical cells. If reliance is to be placed on these reports they must be given in terms of the underlying tissue alteration and with the least possible doubt. In order to achieve this the earlier established criteria for evaluation of cellular changes are no longer sufficient.

In the introduction, therefore, the author re-evaluates the criteria for interpretation of atypical cells by studying their fine nuclear structure in addition to more conventional

cellular changes. The nuclear details visible under the highest powers of the light microscope form the basis for his classification. This conveys a more accurate picture of the underlying disease process than that expressed by current numerical classifications, which only represent a gradation of diagnostic certainty and fail to define the pathological significance of cellular alteration. The cell morphology in normal tissue sections and in smears from various anatomical sites is described and compared with the features of inflammation, hyperplasia, dysplasia, and neoplasia. The text is well illustrated by many excellent diagrams and photomicrographs. The physiological changes in the vaginal epithelium introduces a well-balanced account of hormonal assessment by vaginal smear and its diagnostic limitations. The section devoted to cytological techniques includes descriptions of the normal anatomy and histology of various regions, which will prove very valuable in the training of cytotechnicians.

While covering the better-known aspects of clinical cytology, the author has included new and interesting facets of the subject culled from his wide experience over the last 12 years. This includes a study of the changes associated with malignancy in cells adjacent to and distant from the sites of malignant tumours. Dr. Nieburgs must be congratulated on producing a first-rate reference book, and if his concept on the importance of the fine structure of the nucleus succeeds in closing existing diagnostic gaps he will have provided an invaluable addition to the cytologists' armamentarium.

J. O. W. BEILBY.

## A Dedicated Woman

**Cicely. The Story of a Doctor.** By Ann Dally. (Pp. 238. £1 15s.) London: Victor Gollancz Ltd. 1968.

Cicely Williams is one of the most important medical women alive today. From hoardings, posters, and newspaper advertisements pathetic, undernourished children stare at us—all suffering from Cicely Williams's disease, kwashiorkor.

Her posting to the Gold Coast as a medical officer was soon followed by her demonstration of the presence of diphtheria to her unbelieving male colleagues. Her questing mind was dissatisfied with the diagnosis of pellagra or vitamin deficiency as an explanation of one of the commonest causes of death among young Africans. Her recognition of

protein deficiency disease in newly weaned children marked a turning-point in the development of paediatrics in the tropics. Her dealings with witch doctors were suspect and her assertion that with their unknown brews and concoctions they could cure infantile tetanus and pneumococcal meningitis was never fully investigated, for she was transferred by the Colonial Office to Malaya. In Singapore she campaigned against the high pressure salesmanship which was trying to replace breast feeding of infants by sweetened condensed milk with resulting development of keratomalacia. She demonstrated the prevalence of rickets in that sun-slugged island because children were kept shut up in dark houses. She fought authority again and again over the segregation of infant welfare centres and hospital facilities under different authorities. Dissatisfied with conditions and prospects in Malaya she obtained an influential teaching paediatric post in Calcutta but was persuaded to stay on in Malaya for a few months more, which landed her in Changi jail on the Japanese invasion.

Her heroic behaviour as a leader of women in captivity, her toughness of spirit despite the uttermost humiliation heaped upon her, and her determination to improve the diet of the prisoners are all matters of history. Although this is one of the best accounts of the humiliation and torture inflicted on Europeans by the Japanese it forms too large a proportion of this biography; the important work done by Dr. Williams in the past twenty years is but briefly touched upon. Since 1945 Cicely Williams has ceaselessly striven for the betterment of maternity and child welfare work. Under the auspices of the World Health Organization, the Nuffield Foundation, and other bodies she has worked in 58 different countries, lecturing, teaching, observing, and fighting. She is now a leading figure in the population control movement, and, as the author says, "having spent her working life making the world safe for babies she is now busy making the world safe from babies."

This book with its rather coy title "Cicely" should have a wide popular appeal. Despite the pages filled with bogus conversations and imagined chat the author, a medical woman, has given us a readable and credible, if somewhat ill balanced, account of a tough, determined, and dedicated gentlewoman who has attempted much and accomplished a great deal. Her Alma Mater, Oxford, should be proud of her.

GEORGE R. MCROBERT.

## Books Received

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

**Renal Hypertension.** Edited by Irvine H. Page, M.D., and James W. McCubbin, M.D. (Pp. 493; illustrated. £8 5s.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers Inc. 1968. Distributed in U.K. by John Wiley & Sons Ltd., Chichester.

**Prostaglandins.** By U. S. von Euler and Rune Eliasson. (Pp. 164+x; illustrated. £4 4s.) New York and London: Academic Press. 1967.

**Bile Pigments. Chemical, Biological, and Clinical Aspects.** By Torban K. With. Translated by J. P. Kennedy. (Pp. 803+xi; illustrated. £16 6s. 8d.) New York and London: Academic Press. 1968.

**Savoir Interpréter. Les isotopes radioactifs en médecine.** By M. de Visscher and C. Beckers. (Pp. 199; illustrated. 200 Frs. B.) Brussels: Albert de Visscher. 1968.

**Savoir Interpréter. Les examens complémentaires à la clinique endocrinienne.** 2nd edition. By M. Perrault and B. Clavel. (Pp. 195; illustrated. 220 Frs. B.) Brussels: Albert de Visscher. 1968.

**Selected Papers from the Institute of Cancer Research: Royal Cancer Hospital and from the Royal Marsden Hospital, 1966.** Volume 21. No editors given. Authors, D. W. Smithers et al. (Pp. 1272+xxviii; illustrated. No price given.) London: Institute of Cancer Research, Royal Cancer Hospital. 1968.

**Human Aggression.** By Anthony Storr. (Pp. 127+xiii. 25s.) London: The Penguin Press. 1968.

**Progress in Atomic Medicine.** Volume 2. Edited by John H. Lawrence, M.D., D.Sc., F.A.C.P. (Pp. 274+ix; illustrated. \$12.75.) New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1968.

**The Biochemistry of Foreign Compounds.** By Dennis V. Parke, B.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.I.C. (Pp. 269+ix; illustrated. £3 15s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1968.

**Programmed Sex Information. 5. Contraception.** By R. W. Kind, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., and John Leedham, M.Ed. (Pp. 31; illustrated. 4s.) London: Longmans. 1968.