

ditions, such as Crohn's disease, male sterility, exfoliative dermatitis, and so on, whose autoimmune basis is still in doubt. This unadventurous attitude, though it makes for brevity and practicality, also means that the treatment is a little staid and conventional.

The first section, after a rather breathless synopsis of general immunology, includes a clear discussion of autoimmunity and the mechanisms of its production; subsequent chapters deal with the thyroid, stomach, adrenal, nervous system, kidney, colon, muscle, heart, and liver. The last section includes rheumatoid arthritis and disseminated lupus erythematosus with allied conditions. The pathology in particular of all these conditions is admirably dealt with. It is unfortunate in so soundly written a book that it is not completely up to date. Although one cannot fault it as a background review of the subject, there have been advances and clarifications—which it would be both laborious and invidious to note individually—since early 1965, which (from a cursory search through the references) would appear to have been the time of going to press. Though the tribulations of editors and publishers are innumerable, this seems too long an interval in a subject developing as rapidly as autoimmunity.

The illustrations, almost all of histological sections, are well selected and reproduced. There is still some doubt in my mind whether even the best monochrome illustration is really more than something to break up the page; and these must clearly account to some extent for the rather excessive price of this volume. But for those who are less lukewarm about pictures, the ones in this book are superior to those of any other book of its kind which I know.

Readers would be well advised to read the general editors' foreword after the text (if at all), since it contains an uncritical and inaccurate account of many aspects of autoimmune disease—for example, the remarks on damage by antithyroglobulin antibody in thyroiditis and on sensitivity to immunosuppression as a criterion for an autoimmune disease, which are contradicted or modified by more sophisticated discussion in the text.

The controversy on whether "auto-immune" conditions should really be called

"autoallergic" conditions has not affected the writing of this book, which may or may not be a pity.

P. G. H. GELL.

## New Work in Ophthalmology

**Advances in Ophthalmology.** Vol. 18. Edited by M. J. Roper-Hall, H. Sautter, and E. B. Streiff. (Pp. 248; illustrated. sFr./DM. 68.) New York and Basel: S. Karger. 1967.

The eighteenth volume of *Advances in Ophthalmology* contains several articles of considerable interest. The first, by I. H. Leopold and A. H. Barnert, of New York, is a long account of the value and dangers in the use of the corticosteroids in ophthalmic diseases. The effect of these hormones, used both topically and systemically, on inflammatory diseases is undoubted and frequently dramatic; but due attention is given not only to the systemic complications which may arise with their administration by mouth but also to the ocular complications which may result from their topical instillation, whether it may be the encouragement of an active infection or the development of a complicating cataract or glaucoma.

The second, by C. A. Stucchi, of Lausanne, is an assessment of the present position of keratoplasty, particular attention being given to the use of preserved grafts and the social value of eye-banks. Then follows an experimental assessment by J. Draeger and F. Becker, of Hamburg, of the electronic applanation tonometer introduced by Mackay and Marg in 1959 in California. It will be remembered that this useful instrument, which takes continuous readings for tonography, eliminates the small errors in this type of tonometry by the use of a small central plunger surrounded by a "guard-ring" in such a manner that the factors of surface tension and deformation of the cornea are effective on the outer guard-ring and not on the tonometer itself, so that the Imbert-Fick law is applicable. A final article by Elisabeth Meier, of Basel, deals

with the intracapsular mechanism of lenticular accommodation.

STEWART DUKE-ELDER.

## Highlights in Surgical History

**Great Ideas in the History of Surgery.** 2nd edition. By Leo M. Zimmerman, M.D., and Ilza Veith, M.A., Ph.D. (Pp. 587 + xii; illustrated. 24s.) London: Constable. 1967.

This is a revised edition of a book first published in 1961. Though the authors state that it is neither a complete nor a conventional history, it is certainly an excellent and readable survey of the progress of surgery from the dawn of history to the end of the nineteenth century.

It portrays "a gallery of great surgeons," ranging from Hippocrates, Galen, and Celsus, through the backward times of the Middle Ages, and giving interesting and instructive accounts of the outstanding surgeons of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Some little-known surgeons are included, as, for example, Caspar Stromayr, who was the first to differentiate direct from indirect inguinal hernia in his *Practica Copiosa*, written in 1559. In the chapter on Marion Sims the authors include a short account of the most distinguished early American surgeons.

Interest mounts as we approach the Listerian era, and the book finishes with descriptions of the work of Victor Horsley and Ferdinand Sauerbruch. There are very brief accounts of more recent developments in neurological and thoracic surgery. One would have liked to see some mention of Owen Thomas, and Lawson Tait and William Macewen deserve more than the very brief reference accorded them. However, one hopes that the authors may compile a similar volume dealing with the surgeons who have pioneered modern surgery through the last 80 years. Such a volume would surely be welcomed.

I cordially recommend this book to all young surgeons and to medical students, for it is a valuable volume and the price is very reasonable.

ZACHARY COPE.

## Books Received

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

**Psychology and Social Problems.** By Michael Argyle. (Pp. 232. 25s. Paper 16s.) London: Tavistock. Methuen, 1967.

**The Physical Management of Developmental Disorders.** Clinics in Developmental Medicine No. 26. By Errington Ellis. (Pp. 50; illustrated. 18s.) London: Spastics Society Medical Education and Information Unit in association with William Heinemann. 1967.

**Sarcoidosis.** By J. G. Scadding, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 542; illustrated. £7 7s.) London: Eyre & Spottiswoode. 1967.

**Background to Migraine.** 1st Migraine Symposium. Edited by Robert Smith, M.A., M.D. (Pp. 160; illustrated. 18s.) London: William Heinemann. 1967.

**Cystic Fibrosis.** Modern Problems in Paediatrics. Vol. 10. Proceedings of 4th International Conference on Cystic Fibrosis of the Pancreas, 1966. Part 1. Edited by E. Rossi and E. Stoll. (Pp. 404 + xiv; illustrated. £8 14s.) London: Academic Press. 1967.

**The Hereditary Haemolytic Anaemias.** The Davidson Lecture. By J. V. Dacie, F.R.S., M.D., F.R.C.P.Lond. (Pp. 37. 7s. 6d.) Edinburgh: Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. 1967.

**Patterns of Urban Mortality.** Report of the Inter-American Investigation of Mortality. By Ruth Rice Puffer and G. Wynne Griffith. (Pp. 353 + xiii. No price given.) Washington: Pan American Health Organization. 1967.

**Artistic Possessions at the Royal College of Surgeons in England.** By Sir Victor Negus, D.Sc., M.S., F.R.C.S. (Pp. 212; illustrated. £5 5s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1967.

**The Auditory Pathway.** By I. C. Whitfield, B.Sc., Ph.D.(Lond.), D.Sc.(Birm.), F.R.I.C. (Pp. 209 + vi; illustrated. 55s.) London: Edward Arnold. 1967.

**Evaluation of Drugs for Tropical Diseases.** Proceedings of Symposium held at the Royal Society of Medicine, London, 1967. Edited by Dr. C. Wilcocks and Dr. E. L. Harris. (Pp. 95. 22s. 6d.) Horsham, Sussex: Association of Medical Advisers in the Pharmaceutical Industry. 1967.

**Recent Advances in Anaesthesia and Analgesia.** 10th edition. Edited by C. Langton Hewer, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.P.(Lond.), F.F.A. R.C.S. (Pp. 342 + viii; illustrated. 60s.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1967.

**Exercise at Altitude.** Based on Papers Presented at the International Symposium, Milan, 1966. Edited by R. Margaria. (Pp. 216; illustrated. £4 13s. 6d.) Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica Foundation. 1967.