

This volume will be particularly useful to clinical pathologists and physicians who have to investigate and care for patients with haemorrhagic disorders, and will also give research workers an up-to-date and comprehensive survey of the field.

M. C. G. ISRAËLS.

What the Kidney Does

Physiology of the Human Kidney. By Laurence G. Wesson, M.D. (Pp. 712+xxi; illustrated. \$34.) London and New York: Grune & Stratton, 1969.

This book is written by a pupil of Homer Smith and dedicated to the master himself. Although the author is a professor of medicine the emphasis is on physiology, and the introduction states that the physiology of the diseased kidney and the clinical use of diuretics "have mainly been omitted."

Probably no one has equalled Homer Smith in the ability to collect a great mass of information, and then to organize it into a coherent whole. Unfortunately, in this present book the ability to collect has not been matched by a corresponding ability to organize. There are many thousands of

references (many of them, despite the title, relating to animal work), but it is difficult to pick out coherent themes, even in individual chapters. This is largely the result of an unfortunate decision to review *seriatim* the many substances with which the kidney deals, rather than to help the reader by attempts at grouping. There are, of course, a few general chapters on renal haemodynamics, tubular transport, and medullary properties, and an interesting short account of cybernetic aspects of body-fluid; but although "acid" is one of the substances discussed the role of the kidney in disposing of hydrogen ion is not clearly described.

The stated purpose of the book is "to provide a reasonable body of reference material for the more advanced student." This purpose is fulfilled at the level of a quarry for information supported by appropriate references. Apart from two short chapters by others, the author has tackled the whole field himself, in over 700 pages. Invidious as comparisons are, it is only fair to potential readers so say that Pitts's much shorter textbook gives a clearer picture of what the kidney does. One must pay tribute to the good intention of Wesson's book and to the labour which has gone into its compilation, but it remains a work of reference in the unhappy sense that its style and layout discourage continuous reading.

D. A. K. BLACK.

Development of Cardiac Surgery

The Surgeon's Heart, A History of Cardiac Surgery. By Robert G. Richardson, M.A., B.M., B.Ch. (Pp. 344; illustrated. 42s.) London: William Heinemann, 1969.

It is strange to think that only twenty years ago the heart was considered almost inviolable from a surgical point of view. Since then advances have come thick and fast—the blue babies, the mitral operations, extracorporeal circulation, and finally transplantation. These developments have aroused great excitement, not only within the medical profession, but in the population at large. The heart has a built-in publicity value. In this area of knowledge the public demands, quite rightly, to know what the surgeons are up to.

Dr. Robert Richardson's book gives a clear and readable account of the development of heart surgery from its early beginnings to the present day. The author seems a little unsure at times about what audience he is writing for. The prologue seems definitely to suggest a work for the lay public, while later on he falls into a style more suitable for the medical non-specialist. But on the whole it is compulsive reading. It will be invaluable for doctors who wish to keep one jump ahead of their patients on this important subject.

J. R. WILSON.

Books Received

Books noticed here may be reviewed later.

Color Atlas and Textbook of Tissue and Cellular Pathology. 3rd Edition. By W. Sandritter. (Pp. 299+xx; illustrated. 15 s.) Chichester, Sussex: John Wiley. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers, 1969.

Print for Partial Sight: A Research Report. By Alison Shaw, M.A. (Pp.: 92+vi; 25s.) London: Library Association, 1969.

The Occurrence and Significance of Myocardial Bridges and Loops on Coronary Arteries. By Premysl Polacek and Antonin Zechmeister. (Pp. 101; illustrated. No price given.) Brno: University J. E. Purkyne, 1968.

Transactions of the American Society for Artificial Internal Organs. Vol. XV. Edited by George E. Schreiner, M.D. (Pp. 512+xi; illustrated. \$15.) Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Hospital, 1969.

Negroes for Medicine: A Report of a Macy Conference. By Lee Cogan. (Pp. 71+x; 47s.) London: IBEG. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1969.

Modern Views on the ABO Blood Groups and Secretor Status. Edited by Kaj Gert Jensen and Sven-Aage Killmann. (Pp. 82; D.kr.54.00.) Copenhagen: Munksgaard, 1969.

Frontiers of Biology, Volume 13: The Biochemistry of Folic Acid and Related Pteridines. By R. L. Blakley. (Pp. 569+xxi. Illustrated. 120s.) Amsterdam: North-Holland Publishing Co., 1969.

Review of Gross Anatomy. Second Edition. By Ben Pansky, Ph.D., M.D., and Earl Lawrence House, Ph.D. (Pp. 494+xi, ii. Illustrated. 75s.) London: Collier-Macmillan, 1969.

Government Social Survey: The Young Smoker. By J. M. Bynner. (Pp. 268+ix, 35s.) London: H.M.S.O., 1969.

The Story of Medicine. By R. E. Allday, M.B., B.S. (Pp. 112; illustrated. 9s. 6d.) London: Ginn, 1969.

The Bacterial Spore. Edited by G. W. Gould and A. Hurst. (Pp. 724+xiv; illustrated. 180s.) London: Academic Press, 1969.

Management of the Injured Patient. Edited by William S. Blakemore, M.D., and William T. Fitts, jun., M.D. (Pp. 370+xiii; illustrated. \$14.50.) New York and London: Harper & Row, 1969.

Content and Consciousness. By D. C. Dennett. (Pp. 198+xii. 40s.) London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1969.

Langzeitprobleme innerer Krankheiten in Diagnostik und Therapie. Edited by E. Haefliger. (Pp. 183+vi; illustrated. 104s.) Basle: S. Karger, 1969.

Advances in Oto-Rhino-Laryngology. Vol. 16. Edited by L. Rüedi. (Pp. 122; illustrated. 70s.) Basle: S. Karger, 1969.

Antibiotika-Fibel. Antibiotika und Chemotherapie. 3. Auflage. By Manfred Plempel and Hinrich Otten. (Pp. 994+xl; illustrated. DM. 98.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag, 1969.

Lehrbuch und Atlas der Gastroskopie. By Wilhelm Brühl and Klaus Krentz. (Pp. 115+v; illustrated. DM. 68.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag, 1969.

Recent Results in Cancer Research. Vol. 21. Scientific Basis of Cancer Chemotherapy. Edited by G. Mathé. (Pp. 98; illustrated. 63s.) London: William Heinemann, New York: Springer-Verlag, 1969.

Scientific Basis of Drug Dependence. Edited by Hannah Steinberg. (Pp. 429+xvii; illustrated. 100s.) London: J. & A. Churchill, 1969.

The Oxygen Regime of the Organism and its Regulation (Symposium). Edited by N. V. Lauer and A. Z. Kolchinskaya. (Pp. 367+vii; illustrated. 100s.) Jerusalem: Israel Program for Scientific Translations, U.K. distributors: N. A. Humphrey, London, 1969.

Veterinary Medicine and Human Health. 2nd edition. By Calvin W. Schwabe, M.S., D.V.M., Sc.D. (Pp. 713+xx; illustrated. 270s.) London: Baillière, Tindall & Cassell, 1969.

The Desegregation of the Mentally Ill. By J. Hoenig, M.D., D.P.M., and Marian W. Hamilton, B.A.(Oxon.), A.A.P.S.W. (Pp. 263+x. 45s.) London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1969.

Minnesota Symposia on Child Psychology. Vol. 2. Edited by John P. Hill. (Pp. 172+viii. 40s.) Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1969.

Watch Those Eyes. By Margaret Brand, M.B. (Pp. 35; illustrated. 1s. 6d.) London: The Leprosy Mission, 1969.