BOOK REVIEWS.

Toxaemias of Pregnancy; Human and Veterinary. A Ciba Foundation Symposium. Edited by John Hammond, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., F. J. Browne, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G., and G. E. W. Wolstenholme, O.B.E., M.B. Pp. 277 with 93 illustrations. Price 21/-; London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1950.

This volume contains the 29 papers presented at a symposium on Toxaemias of Pregnancy held at the Ciba Foundation, London, in January, 1950. The meeting lasted three days and among those attending were obstetricians, veterinarians, physiologists, physicians, pathologists and biochemists. The majority of these were British but a number of representatives of other European countries and of the United States of America were also present.

The papers included in this book cover a wide range of subjects related to the toxaemias of pregnancy. It is not possible, in a review of this length, to discuss each contribution individually, but the volume covers much recent research work in the field of pregnancy toxaemia. In the foreword by Lord Horder, he rightly suggests that it forms an excellent basis from which further researches may develop.

The book is compact, well produced and printed on very good paper. The individual articles are concise and easily read, and the whole volume should be studied by all obstetricians and others interested in any aspect of the toxaemias of pregnancy.

The last three sections consist of summaries of the three main aspects of the subject. The veterinary standpoint is summarised by John Hammond, the medical aspect by G. W. Pickering and the obstetrical aspect by F. J. Browne. These summaries are concise and very clearly written and they undoubtedly enhance the value of the book as a whole.

Physiologie und Pathologie des Bilirubin: stoffwechsels als Grundlagen der Icterusforschung, by T. Baumgartel, M.D. Pp. 271. Price dm. 27; Stuttgart: George Thieme. 1950.

This work, aptly dedicated to Hans Fischer, is by one whose contributions to knowledge of bile pigment chemistry and metabolism are almost as numerous and important. The book is well arranged. After a general historical review of work on jaundice and related problems the first half deals with normal haemoglobin breakdown and bile pigment metabolism. The second half of the work is concerned with pathological physiology which is well correlated with the clinical problems of jaundice.

The author has not attempted to write a comprehensive treatise but has provided a good review of a complex subject the problems of which have occupied the attentions of the biochemist, the clinician, the pathologist and the bacteriologist.

The difficulty of access to British and American journals has obviously handicapped the author: this may account for the neglect both of the work of Watson and his colleagues, and of the more recent publications of Lemberg and his co-workers on intracorpuscular bile pigment formation. On the other hand, this work provides the English-speaking student of the subject with a useful key to the extensive German literature of the past decade.

The volume is well bound and is admirably printed on good paper.

A Handbook of Ophthalmology, by Humphrey Neame, F.R.C.S. and F. A. Williamson-Noble, F.R.C.S. 7th edition. Pp. 338. Price 22/6 net; London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1951.

The authors are to be congratulated upon the manner in which they have maintained their standards in the successive editions of this admirable student and practitioner handbook. The commoner affections of the eye are described in considerable detail and a sufficient account is given of various operative procedures which should enable the doctor to appreciate the technical problems involved. The high quality of the illustrations, both in colour and in line, are a most admirable feature of the volume.
Modern Trends in Orthopaedics, edited by Sir Harry Platt, M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S. Pp. 497. Price 45/. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. 1950.

The volume consists of fourteen chapters under the editorship of Sir Harry Platt who writes the first chapter. In it, he discusses undergraduate teaching and postgraduate training of the orthopaedic surgeon. Charnley's chapter on fracture healing is very stimulating and original. He emphasizes the profuse periosteal formation of new bone and its absence in the actual space between the bone fragments themselves which appear almost inert in the early stages of the healing process. He discusses the moulding of a plaster cast on the limb so that an unstable fracture may be rendered stable by 'three-point action.' Bone and joint tuberculosis is discussed by Girdlestone. It is interesting to note that the old relationship between human and bovine types of infection has been reversed so that 85 per cent are now human and only 15 per cent bovine. A particularly good account is given of tuberculosis of the spine and the operative approaches for Pott's paraplegia. Ellis discusses the pyogenic diseases of the bones and joints. Since the use of penicillin, the mortality of acute osteomyelitis has fallen from 20 per cent to 3 per cent. We do not yet know, however, what the final results will be from the point of view of morbidity and crippling, as there would appear to be many examples of later recurrences of the condition. Some would consider that Robertson's technique in chronic osteomyelitis of the tibia in which much of the cross section of the bone is removed leaving only the posterior angle or postero-lateral surface of the bone is rather radical and might lead to fracture. McFarland deals with the congenital deformities of the spine and limbs. The chapter is a little ill-balanced. Thus, he has five lines on syndactylysm and thirteen on hyperplasia of the second and third toes. It seems unnecessary to add a paragraph on scoliosis when it is exhaustively dealt with in a later chapter by Osmond-Clarke. The latter discusses fully the accurate radiological measurements which may be taken periodically in order to evaluate the efficacy of the treatment. Chronic arthritis is discussed by Capener. He gives a particularly clear account of the physiology of the normal joint and the pathology of arthritis. Barnes gives a good summary of bone and muscle tumours. He emphasizes the occasional difficulty in diagnosis and most will agree with him that a biopsy is essential in a proportion of cases and does not appear to prejudice the patient's chances of a cure. It might have been wise to have avoided the well-known tumours, such as osteoma and chondroma and spent more space on the debatable ones. Birkett deals with the derangements of the spinal column. His discussion of the anatomy of the spine in relation to trauma is particularly good. The disc lesions are fully dealt with although he admits that much definite knowledge is lacking. We feel that his statement that '......the development of penicillin, which can be used as a prophylactic against wound infection, has made complex spinal operations safe,' is bad surgical principle. Furlong's short chapter on muscle and tendon injuries is full of wisdom. He points out that the result of a fracture is determined more by the complications of the muscle damage than the bone injury. Late disability is due to limitation of muscle excursion and not to loss of power. Scarring should thus be limited, particularly by the control of haematoma formation. Griffiths discusses certain vascular lesions although we cannot help wondering if this properly belongs to a book of orthopaedics. The bone dystrophies are well dealt with by Burrows. This is a very instructive chapter.

The book is well written although there are the inevitable printer's errors, such as 'its falls' instead of 'it falls' in the middle of page 248 and 'bilateral circulation' at the end of page 283 instead of 'collateral circulation.' If the script is interesting, many of the illustrations are appallingly bad. Figures 90, 93, 98 and 115 are quite useless and would be better omitted altogether than retained in their present state of complete obscurity. We hope that the publishers will succeed in correcting this technical fault which spoils an otherwise interesting book.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Design for Sanatoria: Report of the NAPT Architectural Committee. Pp. 124. Price 12/6. London: National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis. 1951.