Reviews

GLASGOW ADRENAL CONFERENCE

The Human Adrenal Cortex. Proceedings of a Conference held at the University of Glasgow, July 11–14, 1960. Edited by Alastair R. Currie, B.Sc., M.B., F.R.C.P.Ed., F.R.F.P.S., T. Symington, B.Sc., M.D., F.R.F.P.S., F.R.I.C., F.R.S.E., and J. K. Grant, B.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.I.C. Foreword by T. Symington. (Pp. 644+xx; illustrated. 55s.) Edinburgh and London: E. and S. Livingstone. 1962.

The First International Congress in Endocrinology, held in Copenhagen in July, 1960, drew together the world's leading experts in this field. A devoted group of endocrinologists in Glasgow University foresaw this occasion as a unique chance to organize a high-level conference on the human adrenal cortex to precede the congress in Copenhagen. Their plans were successful and the conference was attended by 94 invited participants, mostly from the United States, Canada, and Great Britain. Forty-eight papers were given and discussed. The proceedings have now been published under the joint editorship of A. S. Currie, J. K. Grant, and Professor T. Symington. The result is a highly important volume providing the latest and most authoritative reviews on most aspects of adrenal function and pathology.

The book is divided into six sections under the headings of "Morphology"; "Biochemistry"; "Control of Adrenocortical Secretion"; "Metabolic Effects of Adrenocortical Hormones"; "Diseases"; and finally the "Foetal Adrenal Cortex." As a departure from recent custom the discussions, instead of being reported verbatim, have been incorporated in a critical summary at the end of each section, written by selected participants. These useful and unbiased commentaries, together with introductory reviews by the chairman of sections, give the general reader a clear guide and background to the individual papers. There is a comprehensive and accurate index, a glossary of terms and abbreviations, and the papers are lavishly illustrated.

This book should appeal to a wide public of scientists and clinicians and no one seriously interested in the adrenal cortex can afford to be without it.

OLIVER GARROD.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION

Blood Transfusion in Clinical Medicine. By P. L. Mollison, M.D., F.R.C.P. Foreword by Sir Alan N. Drury, C.B.E., F.R.S Third edition. (Pp. 773+xxi; illustrated. 72s. 6d.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1961.

Blood Transfusion in Clinical Medicine was first published in 1951 and is now appearing in its third edition. The original edition contained 456 pages and the present one 773. This increase in size represents the inclusion of much new material, some of which is the result of an increase in knowledge and some a spread of the original scope of the book. In the third edition two new chapters have been included since the second edition. One, on the general considerations of blood groups, now includes material on leucocyte and platelet antigens and on complement reactions. The other, on autoantibodies, gives a good account of their properties and significance. The chapter on incompatibility has been enlarged and now includes an account of much of the author's own excellent work on *in vivo* red-cell destruction in incompatible systems; this chapter ends with an excellent account of incompatible-transfusion reactions and their treatment. Many other parts of the book have been brought up to date; these include accounts of blood storage, the antiglobulin test, conglutination, and haemolytic disease of the newborn. What makes this book particularly valuable is the unique way Dr. Mollison has been able to illustrate the problems presented from his own personal experience. There is a wealth of haematological information in this book, and its title belies its scope. As were the previous editions, this one is unique in its field and can be thoroughly recommended.

T. A. J. PRANKERD.

BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Children in Hospital. A Hundred Years of Child Care in Birmingham. By Rachel Waterhouse. Foreword by Sir Arthur Thomson. (Pp. 136; illustrated. 15s.) London: Hutchinson. 1962.

The Children's Hospital, Birmingham, has recently celebrated its centenary, and this book is primarily a history of its origin and evolution. The first chapter gives a brief but well-planned sketch of the child in mid-Victorian England and reminds us of the shocking conditions that prevailed in most of the larger cities, where ignorance, squalor, and poverty afflicted the welfare of children with unmerciful severity. Fortunately it was a time when men and women of resolution and courage were found to meet the challenge, and in Birmingham it was Dr. Thomas Heslop who summoned a meeting of influential citizens in June, 1861, to consider the establishment of a children's hospital which would have three main aims—the medical and surgical treatment of poor children, the diffusion of knowledge about disease in childhood, and the training of nurses. The mayor of Birmingham was then invited to call a town meeting, which gave unanimous support to the suggestion; and thus was born an institution which now enjoys the well-earned reputation of being one of the foremost children's hospitals in the world.

Rachel Waterhouse has made a painstaking survey of the available sources of information and has written a most interesting history which carries the reader along and gives him a well-knit background of national and local trends in paediatrics, against which the day-to-day difficulties and problems of an enlarging, progressive institution can be seen in proper perspective. There is some fascinating information about the financing of the hospital when voluntary support was the only means available, and also about the doctors and laymen who have given their services over the years. Undoubtedly the main achievement of this book is its success in describing how wisely the evolution of the hospital has been encouraged by the common sense and practical foresight of so many enthusiasts. Heslop's original aims are still the order of the day at Ladywood Road, and they have been enlarged by the close associations which now exist with the university and the health department of the city.

A word of warning should be given to those who, like myself, are senior enough to have known the Children's Hospital since the 1920s. Do not expect this history to make the place, and the people who worked there, really come back to life; if you do you will have a feeling of disappointment for which the authoress is not responsible. To have enjoyed the friendship of men like Leonard Parsons, K. D. Wilkinson, and James Smellie