

BOOKS RECEIVED

The Editorial Board acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following volumes. A selection from these will be made for review.

'Wound Healing'. Proceedings of a symposium organized by Smith and Nephew Research Ltd., Hunsdon, Hertfordshire, and held at the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Edited by D. Slome, M.A., PH.D., M.B., CH.B. Pp. xi + 94, illustrated. Oxford, London, New York and Paris: Pergamon Press. 1961. 30s.

'Genetical Variation in Human Populations'. Symposium of the Society for the Study of Human Biology, Volume 14. Edited by G. A. Harrison. Pp. viii + 185, illustrated. Oxford, London, New York and Paris: Pergamon Press. 1961. 35s.

'Biological Effects of Freezing and Supercooling'. Monographs of Physiological Society. Edited by H. Barcroft, H. Davson and W. D. M. Paton. By Audrey U. Smith, D.Sc., M.B., B.S. London: Edward Arnold 1961. 55s.

'Advances in Biology of Skin'. Volume 2: 'Blood Vessels and Circulation'. Edited by William Montagna and Richard A. Ellis. Pp. 156, illustrated. Oxford, London, New York and Paris: Pergamon Press. 1961. 63s.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Treatment of Hypertension

SIR GEORGE PICKERING, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S., W. I. CRANSTON, M.D., M.R.C.P., and M. A. PEARLS, M.D., M.R.C.P. Pp. xi + 175. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C Thomas. Oxford: Blackwell. 1961. 56s.

The authors provide an up-to-date, commendably brief and to-the-point discourse on the subject. No important features are omitted. A useful selection of references is listed. The principle of hypertension as a symptom and not a disease is well brought out. The standard of production is, on the whole, good, although a number of minor editorial faults remain. In terms of return for time spent in reading, this book may be most warmly recommended both to students and practitioners.

Progress in Biophysics and Biophysical Chemistry. Vol. II

Edited by J. A. V. BUTLER, B. KATZ and R. E. ZIRKLE. Pp. v + 277, illustrated. Oxford, London, New York and Paris: Pergamon Press. 1961. 35s.

The most significant advances in science often result from the application of discoveries in one field to research in remote fields. Increasing specialization threatens this cross-fertilization because the practitioners in any one branch of science are unlikely to be aware of many of the situations in which their expertise could be fruitfully applied, while the potential beneficiaries are often unaware that knowledge they could use with profit already exists. Fortunately, the danger is not unrecognized, and the series 'Progress in Biophysics and Biophysical Chemistry', in which this is the eleventh volume, shows how greatly the biological sciences are becoming enriched by the labours of physicists and chemists who apply themselves to biological problems.

In this volume a physicist, W. V. Mayneord, writes on 'The Natural Radioactivity of the Human Body', and

another, A. M. Uttley, tackles 'The Engineering Approach to Neural Organization'. The action of ionizing radiations on the biosynthesis of the nucleic acids and on the dynamics of the bone-marrow cells are discussed by R. Goutier and by L. G. Lajtha. P. I. Korner writes on the dispersion of indicator substances in the mammalian circulation, and E. J. Denton analyses the mechanisms by which pelagic animals maintain their buoyancy. Finally, there are abstracts of papers read at an informal meeting on cytoplasmic particles and their role in protein synthesis held in March 1960 under the auspices of the Colloid and Biophysics Committee of the Faraday Society.

The medical profession is one of the main beneficiaries of scientific progress, but there is often a long delay before discoveries are successfully applied. Cardiologists will read Korner's chapter with profit, radiotherapists will learn much from Lajtha, and Mayneord's article should be widely read. Most clinicians will find this volume heavy going, but if they are prepared to make the effort they will be amply rewarded.

Oncogenic Viruses

LUDWIK GROSS, M.D. International Series of Monographs on Pure and Applied Biology, Vol. II. Pp. xi + 392, illustrated. Oxford, London, New York and Paris: Pergamon Press. 1961. 80s.

The importance of Dr. Gross's discovery that a mammalian leukæmia could be transmitted, admittedly by a very special technique, by cell-free filtrates containing an agent having properties characteristic of the viruses can hardly be exaggerated. Yet the work was slow in becoming accepted, though it has now been abundantly confirmed and extended.

In this volume Dr. Gross describes in detail the history of our knowledge of the virus-induced tumours of