is out of balance with the demand of the systemic demand for blood, the stage is set for the appearance of clubbing."

Dr Mendlowitz is a supporter of thoraco-lumbar sympathectomy for hypertension, and writes a most lucid chapter on the background of this common disease, pointing out the three responsible factors, namely, the neurogenic, humoral, and intrinsic, the latter being produced by intimal thickening, thrombosis, external constriction, and arteriolar muscular hypertrophy. He has studied by colorimetry the digital circulation in a long series of hypertensives. He remarks on the phenomenon of the annoying vaso-constriction in the hands that sometimes follows this operation, yet "despite these considerations, there is good evidence that sympathectomy is of some value in selected cases of essential hypertension," a conclusion which the results obtained in Birmingham confirm.

This is an excellent book, one of the several on this subject recently published that have added knowledge to the problems of peripheral circulation. From the clinical point of view colorimetry is too time-consuming to be of use in the wards, yet a few cases studied by this and other methods undoubtedly lead to a better understanding of the peripheral and generalised arterial diseases.—F. A. R. STAMMERS.

ANATOMY. Regional and Applied. By R. J. LAST, M.B. (Adel.), F.R.C.S., Professor of Applied Anatomy, Royal College of Surgeons of England. 10 × 7 in. Pp. xii + 665, with 309 figures, many in colour. Index. 1954. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. Price 55s.

Those who have heard Professor Last lecture, or who are conversant with his original work and published articles, would expect that any book he wrote on Regional and Applied Anatomy would be well worth reading—and this book is well worth reading. It does not follow the normal pattern of anatomy text-books. Probably the key to its conception lies in the experience of its author. Professor Last spent many years with that master human and comparative anatomist, Wood Jones. He practised surgery for twenty years and, more recently, has taught postgraduate anatomy. Consequently the body is to him not an inert cadaver to dissect for topographical information, but a living organism, the form and working of which he explains sometimes on a phylogenetic, sometimes on an embryological and sometimes on a physiological basis, and occasionally from the point of view of a surgeon. Thereby the reader is provided with numerous pegs on which to hang his knowledge; and finds many parallel approaches, which simplify the understanding of the part and yet emphasise the cohesion of the whole.

The first part of the book consists of an account of the tissues and structures that make up the body, some general considerations of the nervous system and embryology. Thereafter, instead of having the systems described in sequence, the regions of the body are taken one by one *in toto*, so that a comprehensive picture of any given region is easy to obtain.

The numerous illustrations are of a high order and are well reproduced. Many of the line and wash drawings come from the author's hand, and show with great clarity the salient features required.

As Professor Last explains in his preface, the scope of the book is not encyclopaedic. A specialist may find the minute description of some structure in his region to be absent. For example, orthopaedic surgeons will find no mention of the abnormal forms and insertions of the tendon of the tibialis anterior muscle, which may contribute to certain foot deformities; nor will they find reference to the extensive blood supply of the tensor fasciae latae muscle which is important in some transplants of this muscle. Nevertheless, this fresh and pleasantly written book is an outstanding achievement, and postgraduates particularly, once they have read it, will not part with it. They will soon realise that its modest cost is a very profitable investment.—Robert I. STIRLING.

ATLAS OF THE SKELETAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE RAT (Long-Evans Strain). Normal and Hypophysectomized. By Hermann BECKS, M.D., D.D.S., F.A.C.D., Professor of Dental Medicine, The George Williams Hooper Foundation for Medical Research, College of Dentistry, and Research Associate, Institute of Experimental Biology, University of California; and Herbert M. EVANS, M.D., Sc.D., Docteur, honoris causa (San Marcus, Paris), Professor of Anatomy, Hertzstein Professor of Biology, Director, Institute of Experimental Biology, University of California. With the Technical Assistance of Mrs Joyce HAAS, Dental Reontgenologist, Berkeley, California. Volumes I and II. 9 × 11 in. Vol. I, pp. xxxv + 65, totally comprising of figures and 4 tables. Volume II, pp. xiii + 78, totally comprising of figures and 5 tables. 1953. 300 copies of this Atlas were prepared at San Francisco by The American Institute of Dental Medicine. Price \$48.

One of the outstanding landmarks in our knowledge of the relationship of hypophysial [pituitary] function and growth was the experimental production by Evans and Long of giantism