A Textbook of Surgical Physiology. By R. Ainslie JAMIESON, M.B., F.R.C.S.Ed., Surgeon, Vale of Leven Hospital, Alexandria, Dunbartonshire; and Andrew W. KAY, M.D., Ch.M., F.R.C.S.Ed., F.R.F.P.S.G., Professor of Surgery, University of Sheffield. 10×7 in. Pp. vii+623, with 186 figures. Index. 1959. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. Price 55s.

The development of surgery in the last twenty years has moved away from anatomical and technical modes of thought to become very much dependent on advances in physiology, biochemistry and experimental pathology. These advances have helped surgeons to a better understanding of disease processes and have pointed the way to improvement in methods of treatment. The need for a book giving a clear exposition of what is rightly termed surgical physiology has long been felt. This book goes a long way towards meeting that need. The authors begin with four chapters dealing with general aspects of the body's reaction to abnormal stimuli—the healing of wounds, the effects of radiation, maintenance of fluid balance and metabolic response to trauma. Succeeding sections deal separately with the various systems of the body, covering in each case normal physiology and alterations induced by disease. Orthopaedic surgeons will naturally be most interested in the introductory chapters and in the sections on vessels, nerves and bone, but they will find much interesting and relevant matter in the descriptions of regions unfamiliar to them. The exposition is throughout concise and clear, and the text is well supported by good illustrations and numerous references. As would be expected, the approach to the subject is predominantly a clinical one, and it is the combination of the clinical with the physiological viewpoint which gives the book its great practical value. It is perhaps inevitable that in attempting to cover the whole immense subject in a book of this size the authors have had to restrict somewhat the material included. For instance, the orthopaedic surgeon will feel the lack of a section on the physiology and patho-physiology of joints; the plastic surgeon may require a chapter on the skin; and both may regret the lack of a separate section on modern experimental methods. Even so, the book as it stands is a very valuable contribution and should be of great assistance to both general and specialist surgeons. The authors are to be congratulated on the way in which they have tackled their formidable task. In their preface they show themselves to be well aware of the difficulty of that task and readily admit that there may be omissions. It is hoped that they will find it possible to include additional material in later editions of what is likely to become a standard work.—George BONNEY.

Neuropathology. By J. G. GREENFIELD, M.D., F.R.C.P., LL.D., Consulting Pathologist, National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, London; W. BLACKWOOD, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.E., M.R.C.P.E., Pathologist, National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, London; W. H. McMENEMEY, M.A., D.M., F.R.C.P., Pathologist, Maida Vale Hospital for Nervous Diseases, London; A. MEYER, M.D., Emeritus Professor of Neuropathology (Institute of Psychiatry), University of London; and R. M. NORMAN, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.M., Neuropathologist, Burden Mental Research Department, Frenchay Hospital, Bristol. 10×7½ in. Pp. viii+640, with 369 figures. Index. 1958. London: Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd. Price £5, 5s.

British neuropathology has suffered its greatest loss with the death of the senior author and editor of this book. Ever since the first world war Dr Godwin Greenfield had kept British neuropathology in the forefront of medical advance, and much of this book reflects his great knowledge of such problems and his attitude to his subject. Trained in the classical methods of Nissl, Alzheimer, Weigert and Cajal he applied these assiduously to the solution of the problems of neurology and probably obtained as much knowledge of the disease of the nervous system as these methods and the light microscope would permit. The chapters on general pathology of the nerve cell and neuroglia, infectious diseases of the central nervous system, traumatic lesions of the central and peripheral nervous systems, demyelinating diseases, system degenerations of the cerebellum, brain stem and spinal cord, diseases of the lower motor and sensory neurones, and lesions of the nervous system associated with diseases or malformations of the cranium and spinal column are all contributed by Greenfield. In them we can trace his attitude to the subject—the meticulous descriptions of histological detail, the accuracy of topography. Yet in his general philosophical outlook one may criticise the attempt to separate the theses of general pathology from those of neuropathology. "This is largely inevitable in so far as it deals with quite different tissues." So does the kidney differ from the liver, the heart from the lungs, and muscle from bone. The development of histochemical techniques may well render the study of the viscera as complicated as that of the nervous system. Dr Greenfield's thesis is that of the pure morbid anatomist and histologist and his work here is at the highest level. His chapter on the general pathology of the cells of the nervous system is unrivalled as a description