without previous knowledge of pulmonary physiology is likely to find it difficult to follow. This was probably unavoidable if the book was to be kept to reasonable proportions; any expansion of sections on basic physiology would have been at the expense of the detailed description of the techniques employed in measurement; and this aspect cannot readily be found elsewhere. In any case there are excellent accounts already available of basic pulmonary physiology.

It was a surprise to find that, having covered lung function and its measurement, one was barely halfway through the book. The remainder includes a valuable chapter on normal values for lung function and the effect of ageing upon them. This is followed by a section entitled *Syndromes of Abnormal Lung Function* which includes bronchitis, diseases characterized by diffuse obstructive changes in the airways, disease of the lung parenchyma, and disturbances of the circulation. The industrial pulmonary diseases discussed are dominated by pneumoconioses, and the functional changes found are related to the pathology. Illustrative cases are described.

The therapy of lung dysfunction is reviewed with particular emphasis on the rational use and techniques of O₂ administration.

There is a good bibliography and an excellent index.

In a book which contains so many facts about a developing subject, it is inevitable that there are areas for disagreement, and not everyone will agree with all the views put forward, but the presentation of the controversial aspects of the subject is balanced and fair.

This book will prove to be a worthwhile contribution to the literature of the subject.

J. B. L. HOWELL

Electrocardiograms. A Systematic Method of Reading Them. By M. L. Armstrong. (Pp. vii + 64; 91 figs.) Bristol: John Wright. 1965.

This small book is intended for the beginner and aims at inducing a systematic, if laborious, approach to the interpretation of electrocardiograms. Most of the text is concerned with explaining the way in which each stage of interpretation is carried out. This is preceded by an introduction to the leads used and the meaning of the electrocardiogram, which is considered almost too briefly to be of much value to the beginner. A few illustrative interpretations and a brief index follow the main part of the text.

The emphasis throughout is on method and orderliness of approach, and this is wise for the beginner but it perhaps fails to provide an adequate basis for understanding the formation of the normal or abnormal electrocardiogram and even tends to discourage understanding by emphasizing empirical rules, as in the statement that if the height of R in V₅ or V₆ added to the depth of the S in V₁ or V₂ exceeds 35 mm. left ventricular hypertrophy is *therefore* present. This requires at least some theoretical justification if understanding of the principles of interpretation is the aim. The electrocardiograms are not reproduced to a very high standard but this may be due to the type of paper used.

A. MORGAN JONES

The Nails in Disease. By P. D. Samman. (Pp. 130; 126 figs. + 4 colour plates; 40s.) London: Heinemann Medical Books. 1965.

It must be appreciated that this small volume is in the main the result of personal observations of the author. It represents the analysis of nearly 800 patients who presented with nail disorders over the course of seven years. After an initial chapter on the anatomy and physiology of nail growth, chapters are presented on nail changes in various disorders of the body, changes associated with skin diseases, effects of trauma, circulatory changes, etc. The black-and-white pictures and the colour pictures are of a high standard, though some radiographs leave a lot to be desired.

Important facts emerge, *e.g.*, median nail dystrophy undergoes spontaneous healing, and thus cures attributed to the eradication of focal sepsis must be viewed with caution. The author's views on nail changes associated with alopecia areata and dermatitis are most valuable.

Not only will dermatologists need this book, but physicians who feel the pulse and examine the hand will find this a most useful addition to their libraries.

M. GARRETT

Copper and Peroxides in Radiobiology and Medicine. By Jack Schubert. (Pp. 217; \$9.00.) Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

The main theme of this book is the 'Cu (I,II)-Peroxy theory', the essence of which is that ionizing radiation produces organic peroxides which oxidize cuprous to cupric copper in the prosthetic group of cytochrome oxidase. On this basis the whole field of radiobiology is reviewed and explained and further experiments are suggested. In addition to the main theme there are valuable discussions of copper chelates, copper enzymes, copper deficiency, Wilson's disease, cancer, ageing, antipyresis, and hypothermia. There has long been a need for a book of this sort and this one fills it well, though somewhat marred by careless grammar and by an apparent spread into the text of some of the sales talk on the cover. A book which is not a mere compilation, but which sets out facts (somewhat selected) in a logical order aimed at the propagation of a particular view, is a pleasant change. Many will claim to have thought on similar lines for years but few have been bold enough to defy the taboo against speculation and to state in print which particular combination of unprovable ideas they favour. Some possible bits of speculation seem to have been omitted. There is no mention of antithyroid drugs such as thiouracil nor of the fact that all known lathyrogens are obviously copper-complexing agents (though they do not protect against radiation) or of thalidomide. These and other interesting substances call for many further measurements of cuprous and cupric-complexing constants and of metabolic pathways by a reliable and dedicated experimentalist.

J. ST. L. PHILPOT

L-Forms, Episomes and Auto-Immune Disease. By Phyllis E. Pease. (Pp. 83; 10s. 6d.) London: Livingstone. 1965.

The purpose of this book is to present the hypothesis

that 'crypto-infection' is involved in the causation of auto-immune disease. The author suggests that tissue antigens are altered as a result of infection either with the L-forms of bacteria or with PPLO, or that bacterial episomes invade the host's genome and induce such infected cells to produce abnormal antigens. An immune response to these abnormal antigens then initiates the auto-immune process.

The subject is introduced by five chapters on bacterial evolution and reproduction (views not generally accepted in bacteriological circles) and on the biology of bacterial L-forms, PPLO, viruses, and episomes. The remaining chapters are concerned with attempts to justify the hypothesis in relation to the various types of auto-immune disease. The evidence is tenuous and the arguments are sometimes based on uncertain premises. In all, the hypothesis is not presented in a convincing manner. This book is certainly not suitable for those not thoroughly familiar with the field of auto-immunity.

G. TAYLOR

BOOKS RECEIVED

(Review in a later issue is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.)

Exotic Diseases in Practice. By Brian Macgrath. Foreword by Lord Cohen of Birkenhead. (Pp. 361; 30 figs.; 50s.) London: Heinemann Medical Books. 1965.

The Quantum of Damages. Vols. I and II. Kemp and Kemp. (Vol. I Pp. 8; 4s. 6d.; Vol. II Pp. 46; 12s. 6d.) London: Sweet and Maxwell. 1965.

Report on the Health of the Army, 1963. Part I. Statistical Tables. (Pp. 93, duplicated; 27 tables; no price stated.) Ministry of Defence. 1965.

A Nurse's Guide to Anaesthetics, Resuscitation and Intensive Care. (Pp. 132; 75 figs.; 20s.) Edinburgh and London: Livingstone. 1965.

The British Steel Castings Research Association 12th Annual Report, 1965. (Pp. 43; illustrated; no price stated.)

Eighteenth World Health Assembly Chronicle, Vol. 19. No. 7. (Pp. 20; illustrated; no price stated.) Geneva: W.H.O. 1965.

First Aid on the Docks. (Pp. 24; illustrated; no price stated.) London: National Dock Labour Board. 1965.

NOTICES

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

A two-week and two one-week intensive courses will be organized by the Department of Occupational Health and Applied Physiology during 1966.

Dust and pulmonary disease: An intensive course on the measurement of airborne dust and its effect on the

lung will be held from 14 to 28 February. Fee: 15 guineas.

Measurement and control of noise: Subjects to be covered include physics of noise; measurement of noise; the ear and audiometry; industrial deafness and noise control. To be held from 14 to 18 March. Fee: 7 guineas.

Measurement and control of heat and hot environments: Subjects to be covered include physiology of heat exposure; measurement of heat; limits of heat exposure; control of heat; protective clothing and medical control. To be held from 2 to 6 May. Fee: 7 guineas.

These courses are designed for those with some experience in occupational hygiene and are open to graduates in physics, chemistry, engineering, or medicine.

Further particulars may be obtained from The Registrar, London School of Hygiene, Keppel Street, London, W.C.1.

International Radiation Protection Association

The First International Congress of the International Radiation Protection Association will convene in Rome, Italy, September 5-10, 1966. For further information regarding the Congress, contact: Dr. C. Polvani, Secretary General, First International Congress of the International Radiation Protection Association, Casella Postale 2359, Roma, Italy.

University of Miami

The Fifth Inter-American Conference on Toxicology and Occupational Medicine will be held in Miami, August 1 to 4, 1966. The conference will be sponsored by the University of Miami School of Medicine assisted by the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine. The highlight of the Conference will be A Symposium on Bladder Cancer. Scientific papers are invited in the fields of general toxicology, occupational medicine, pesticides, air and water pollution, and radiation. For further information contact Wm. B. Deichmann, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmacology and Director of the Research and Teaching Center of Toxicology, University of Miami, School of Medicine, Coral Gables, Florida 33134.

International Society of Agricultural Medicine

The Third International Congress on Rural Medicine will take place on September 26 to 30, 1966, in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, with the following programme: (1) The problem of anthroozoonoses in agriculture; (2) Toxicologic problems in rural hygiene; (3) Ergonomic aspects in agriculture. All correspondence should be addressed to: Doc. Dr. med. D. Rolný, C. Sc., Secretary General of the Third International Congress on Rural Medicine, Bratislava, Ul. čs. armády 40, Czechoslovakia.