The Encyclopedia of Microscopy. Edited by George L. Clark. (Pp. xiii + 693; illustrated. 200s.) New York: Reinhold; London: Chapman and Hall. 1961.

Titles can be misleading: though large, heavy, and expensive, this book is not an encyclopaedia of microscopy. It is not an authoritative and comprehensive survey of established knowledge about microscopes and their use, but a collection of papers on different branches of what the editor chooses to call "microscopy". Under "General Microscopy" there is even an Orwellian description of the methods used by a given American firm to assess the salaries of their scientific staff (pp. 381-384); this description is extremely funny (unintentionally), but is it microscopy? Some of the papers dealing with microscopy are very much better than others. But the absence of anything approaching a firm editorial control makes it extremely difficult to extract from this book such useful information as it contains. No index is provided. The principles and practice of direct or ordinary microscopy are not critically discussed. Phase-contrast microscopy is ignored (except for a brief description of Prof. Wilska's "anoptral" system). Interference microscopy is discussed (with a great deal of repetitiveness and not a little ambiguity), but not in such a way as to convey to the reader clear ideas about the principles, practice, applications, and limitations of the method. There is an excellent paper by Innoué on his elegant method of increasing the sensitivity of measurements of small retardations with the polarizing microscope, but nothing is said of normal polarization microscopy. The two short papers on ultraviolet microscopy are entirely inadequate. Some aspects of x-ray and electron microscopy are discussed a little more fully. But even then the omissions are glaring: methods of preparing biological objects for electron microscopy are not mentioned; pathology and cytology are equated with pathology and cytology of the kidney.

Since much of this book is not about microscopy, and a great deal of what is can be found in much the same form in the leaflets distributed free of charge by microscope manufacturers, £10 would seem a high price to pay for the residual core of useful information. Anyone searching for a lucid survey of microscopy will do better to search elsewhere.

G. B. DAVID

BOOKS RECEIVED

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

Die Prüfung der fibrogenen Eigenschaften von Stäuben im Intraperitonealtest (IPT). Inaugural Dissertation, University of Zürich. By Marlis Gassmann-Kirchth. (Pp. 36) Zürich: Schmidberger and Müller. 1962.

The National Corporation for the Care of Old People. Fourteenth Annual Report for the year ended 30th September, 1961. (Pp. 32) London: The National Corporation for the Care of Old People. 1962.

Planning and Action for Mental Health (Proceedings of the 12th and 13th Annual Meetings of the World Federation for Mental Health). Edited by Esther M. Thornton. (Pp. 348. 20s.) London: Lewis, for the World Federation for Mental Health. 1961.

Register of Research in the Human Sciences 1960-1961. (Pp. viii+123. 10s.) London: H.M.S.O., for the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. 1962.

Radiation and Health. By Katherine Williams, C. L. Smith and H. D. Chalke. (Pp. ix+206; illustrated. 28s.) London: Longmans, Green. 1962.

What You Should Know About . . . Seat Belts. (Pp. 15; illustrated. 35 cents) Chicago: Enterprise Publications. 1962.

The British National Health Service. Friend or Frankenstein? By Donald McI. Johnson. (Pp. 234. 21s.) London: Johnson Publications. 1962.

Aktuelle Probleme der Staublungenforschung. Tagungsbericht zum 10. Kongress der Süddeutschen Tuberkulose-Gesellschaft in Bayreuth vom 1. bis 3. Juni 1961. Edited by H. Hofmann. (Pp. 163; 74 figures+tables. DM.13.80) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1962.

Toxicity of Arsenic Compounds. By W. D. Buchanan. (Pp. viii+155; 6 figures+4 tables. 25s.) Amsterdam: Elsevier. 1962.

Protective Clothing and Devices. By N. T. Freeman. (Pp. xii+193; illustrated. 31s. 6d.) London: Industrial Safety. 1962.

Wound Healing. Proceedings of a Symposium organised by Smith and Nephew Research Ltd. Edited by D. Slome. (Pp. 94. 30s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1961.

Empire Rheumatism Council. Twenty-Fifth Annual Report 1961. (Pp. 71; illustrated.) London: Empire Rheumatism Council. 1962.

The following letter has been received from Professor Hans Selye, and no doubt readers will wish to accede to his request.

Gentlemen:

The research library of the Institute of Experimental Medicine and Surgery of the University of Montreal has suffered extensive losses owing to destruction by fire.

In attempting to rebuild our library, we should like to enlist the assistance of the readers of the *British Journal of Industrial Medicine*, and ask them to send us all available reprints of their work, especially those dealing with ENDOCRINOLOGY and STRESS.

At the same time we wish to point out that our permanent mailing list was also destroyed, hence we shall be able to send reprints of our own publications only to those of your readers who write for them.

We would be most grateful if you could find some appropriate space in your Journal for the early publication of this request.

Yours sincerely,
HANS SELYE,

Professor and Director,
Institute of Experimental Medicine and Surgery,
University of Montreal,
P.O. Box 6128, Montreal 26, Canada.