modernization; they have been made sparingly and never at the expense of the clarity of the original exposition.

The chapter on the significance of the difference between two proportions now includes a short section on the null hypothesis. A number of changes have been made in the chapter on standardized death rates and indices. A new section shows how to use the technique, on which the standardized mortality ratio is based, in an experiment: I situation where the effect of one variable must be held constant in order to examine the independent effect of another. The section on the outmoded comparative mortality index has been eliminated and the dangers of standardization have been emphasized again. The chapter on clinical trials now includes a section on the use of matched pairs between and within patients. The second of the two valuable chapters on common fallacies has been enlarged to include a discussion on the vexed question of 'normal' values of measurable human characteristics.

The final chapter on statistical evidence and inference retains the excellent advice given in earlier editions. It emphasizes the theme which permeates the whole text, namely, that the valid interpretation of data depends mainly upon a common-sense appreciation of the data themselves while the statistical methods applied to the data are merely an aid to the application of common sense. The final section of this chapter, 'common sense and figures', has been admirably amplified.

E. A. CHEESEMAN


This handsomely produced volume contains a series of important papers which were presented at a recent Ciba Foundation Symposium. As is inevitable with symposia of this character, it is impossible to cover the whole field of sensorineural loss in such a limited space. Those expecting a complete and comprehensive survey of this subject, as might be anticipated from the title of this work, will perhaps be somewhat disappointed.

Rather, indeed, are the organizers to be congratulated on assembling such an excellent cross-section of many aspects of current research concerning the difficult problem of what many of us were brought up to call simply 'nerve deafness'.

The studies range from considerations of the normal structure of the organ of Corti, the pathology of deafness, necropsy findings in sensorineural deafness and possible causes of profound deafness in childhood to detailed descriptions of new and sophisticated audiometric tests, particularly the stapedius reflex test in the differential diagnosis of acoustic tumours, and experimental electrophysiological and scala tympani perfusion techniques in animals.

From a practical point of view, the paper by J. Marquet of Belgium is of particular interest. This studies the disturbing problem of sensorineural hearing loss which may follow surgical procedures on the ear, and discusses both the causation and prevention of this disturbing complication. Any industrial medical officer who is approached for advice concerning the advisability of operative treatment for chronic otitis media, or of stapes surgery for otosclerosis, will find much food for thought in this article.