This short monograph, an expansion of material submitted for the degree of Doctor of Medicine of the University of London, is an up-to-date survey drawn from 539 original references. It is comprehensive and includes methods of aldosterone estimation in body fluids, its biosynthesis, metabolism and its role in homeostasis and the pathogenesis of disease. Reasoned hypotheses are offered useful to general clinical and research workers alike. Dr. Ross has himself made original contributions in this study.

The chapters in this well illustrated booklet represent the individual contributions of 24 participants, each with up-to-date references from the literature. All excepting two from Edinburgh are from English medical centres, all are leaders or have done original work. Ten professors are included among the physiologists, experimental pathologists, radiologists, surgeons, and physicians present.
The discussions are briefly reported. The four topics were: The pathogenesis of occlusive arterial disease; Cerebral vascular disease; Coronary artery disease, and Peripheral vascular disease. Not only for theoretical views, but for the practical managements, including surgical managements, this book is worth reading.
This excellent international Symposium is a valuable introduction to current thought on the problem from the aspect of the physiologist, bacteriologist, pathologist, biochemist, and clinician.
The wide field of disciplines covered together with the extensive bibliography of nearly 1000 references will appeal particularly to those geriatricians engaged in clinical research.

This monograph deals with all aspects of parkinsonism. It gives a valuable introduction to the history of the disease. This is followed by a short anatomy and physiology of the extrapyramidal system. The clinical signs and symptoms of parkinsonism are exhaustively described. The author has extensive clinical resources to draw upon and he has done so to very good effect. His wide experience, based on over 800 personally observed cases, allows him to speak authoritatively about therapy, both medical and surgical. The chapter on medical treatment is prefaced by a careful pharmacological appraisal of the various drugs commonly in use. The chapter on surgery reflects modern practice throughout the world.
The bibliography is complete, the typography excellent. This book can be recommended to all those who are concerned with the care of parkinsonians. They will find here a rational attitude to many problems and answers to some.
Davidsoni Meiklejohni Passmore: Human Nutrition and Dietetics. Livingstone, Edinburgh 1960. 84i.

This is a most impressive and stimulating book. It covers a very wide range, but though thorough and detailed, it is eminently readable. It is, however, best used as a reference book. Though the book has three authors it is written in a unified style. It is sensibly divided into six parts, viz. Physiology, Food Stuffs and Food Poisons, Primary Nutritional Diseases, Nutritional Aspects of General Diseases, Public Health Aspects, and lastly Diet and Physiological Stress. In short, this book reflects the high standard which Sir Stanley Davidson has already achieved in his two other major textbooks, both also jointly edited. For the geriatric physician this is a mine of information because nutritional diseases in old age are still common. This book is well produced and printed.


This small volume represents up-to-date discussions on hypertension. Obviously a collection of post-graduate lectures, it has nothing new to say but gives the latest advances in this field, including therapy. There are extensive references to the world literature. An interesting deviation from current British practice is the use of balneo-therapy in hypertension. To this reviewer, at least, the results do not appear impressive.


This book gives a very good account of modern endocrinology. It is meant for general practitioners and is written in a very didactic style. It picks out the lesser known syndromes and devotes only little space to the more common conditions, such as diabetes mellitus.

Particularly welcome is a very full and up-to-date account of intersex and hypo-gonadism. Two special chapters deal with steroid therapy of non-endocrine conditions. The appendix gives normal values of hormones in blood and serum hormone – excretion in urine, skeletal development, the formulae of natural and synthetic steroid hormones, and the trade name of various hormone preparations.

Unfortunately, the references to the literature are not systematically collected. Practical endocrinology can be recommended to the reader who wishes for a dogmatic account, but not to the research student anxious to inform himself of recent advances, sometimes controversial, in this field.

The layout and typography are faultless. The price is rather high.


This short textbook for undergraduates by lecturers of biochemistry and pathology at University College Hospital is important for the non-biochemically minded clinician since before presenting details of metabolic disturbances underlying disease, a brief simple general outline of cellular chemistry is given – this alone justifies the book.

The latter part of the book then interpretes information often available only in scientific journals or monographs which are too highly specialized for the student, on toxic agents, deficiency states, genes, enzymes and disease, and changes in growth. Although many examples are more relevant to pediatrics it is recommended that the gerontologist should also read this up-to-date small volume.
The first part of this book deals with the methodology of field surveys and trials and the second part with the application of these methods to a number of specialized fields of medicine. Although no mention is made of important surveys in old age which have been carried out in the past decade, nevertheless physicians practicing geriatrics will find this work of interest for its description of survey methods.

This book emphasizes the growing awareness of physicians of the importance of factors which influence the occurrence of disease in groups of the population. There is certainly great scope for collective investigations in the field of gerontology and the book can be commended to physicians, clinical research workers and those working in public health.

C.H. Gray: Clinical Chemical Pathology. Publ. Edward Arnold Ltd. 2nd Ed., 1959, 160 p., Us. Primarily this book was written for clinical medical students at King’s College Hospital. As Prof. Gray intended, however, the first edition reached a wider circle of readers, its presentation was appreciated by both post graduates preparing for higher medical examinations and anyone wishing to interpret biochemical findings.

It is a small volume and well written. Particularly good from the clinical point of view are the sections on oedema, acid-base balance, liver function tests, diabetes, and calcium and phosphorous metabolism. The 2nd Edition has shed all out-moded material and includes instead details of the uses and limitations of the various new reagents for routine urine and stool testing, enzyme tests, paper electrophoresis and other recent developments of practical importance. It is not a mere compilation but an interesting readable course in chemical pathology recommended for those who wish to see the subject as a whole and therefore of particular value to those practicing geriatric medicine.

The reviewer wholeheartedly recommends this book as essential reading, not too difficult to assimilate.

The fourteen contributors are all practising clinicians at centres of medical teaching and represent the generation of younger British physicians whose thinking and outlook on illness is essentially physiological. Here is a book of applied physiology and functional pathology in which the policy has been to discuss only those aspects which can profitably be presented from a clinical rather than an academic standpoint.

Neurophysiology is omitted – apart from a chapter on skeletal muscle which includes electromyography. Perhaps this omission is an advantage as the book remains of manageable size and the gap between academic neurophysiology and practical neurology is still too wide. Books of this sort may tend to repeat the obvious but this is only occasionally apparent, instead one is surprised by the restrained but practical and interesting selection of examples. The conventional subdivision of physiology into organ and function corresponds usually to the clinical specialities and each such chapter is divided into four sections. The first and second sections deal with normal and disordered function. The third is an account of the physiological principles underlying tests and measurements. The fourth section, “Practical Assessment”, is essentially a summary of the three preceding sections, to show how the information can be used in diagnosis and assessment. Often this is in tabular form. These summaries are of valuable
guidance especially in endocrinology where clinical observation and routine tests are given separately from those requiring special techniques.