

BOOK REVIEWS

A TEXT BOOK OF GENERAL PHYSIOLOGY BY HUGH DAVSON, D. SC. (LOND.), SECOND EDITION, 1959, WITH 348 ILLUSTRATIONS INCLUDING 32 PLATES, J. AND A. CHURCHILL LTD., 104, GLOUCESTER PLACE, W. 1, LONDON. 84S. NET.

A second edition of Davson's General Physiology will be received by students of Physiology with great interest. The book is divided into six sections and twentyfour chapters. Section 1 deals with the structural basis of living matter, section 2 with transformation of energy in living systems, section 3 with the transport of water and solutes, section 4 with characteristics of excitable tissue, section 5 with the mechanism of contraction of muscle and section 6 with light and its effect on, and its emission by the organism.

The scope of the book may be surmised from the type of the reader or readers, for whom it has been written. It will be found useful by the medical student who wants to adopt teaching and research as a career, by the degree student in physiology and related subjects like botany and zoology, by those beginning research work in physiology and related subjects and finally by the mammalian physiologists who wish to know and understand what his colleagues the general physiologists are doing. The book is pitched fairly high and a knowledge of physics, physical chemistry and biochemistry is necessary for an intelligent comprehension of the subject matter.

In the second edition new chapters on the Sensory Response, Excitability of Cardiac Muscle and Electrical Activity in Smooth Muscle have been added. These and other additions in the body of the book have necessarily resulted in an increase in the size of the book.

The book is extremely well documented and some 2,500 additional original papers, reviews and monographs have been consulted in its preparation. Advanced students of physiology will find this book immensely valuable.

R.P. KOHLI

APPLIED PHARMACOLOGY (CLARK), NINTH EDITION BY ANDREW WILSON AND H.O. SCHILD: PP. XII+750 (INCLUDING INDEX AND 165 ILLUSTRATIONS). J. AND A. CHURCHILL LTD., LONDON, 1959. 50S.

The authors revising this standard text book of Pharmacology, set before themselves the task of preserving "the characteristic features of..... presenting the subject of pharmacology in relation to the cognate disciplines of physiology and of medicine." The authors have more than succeeded in fulfilling their objective. The book has been brought upto date by incorporation of numerous new drugs without a corresponding increase in size. The