

BOOK REVIEWS

J. W. MOULDER: **The Biochemistry of Intracellular Parasitism**. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1962. pp. 176, 29 illus., 13 diagrams, 8 tables, \$6.00.

THIS monograph is an excellent summary of the available information on the biochemistry of the host cell-parasite interrelationships. The book is not a compendium of the literature on intracellular parasites as the title may suggest, but rather is an exhaustive discussion of four groups of obligate intracellular parasites. After an introductory chapter defining the phenomenon of parasitism and intracellular parasites in general, chapters are devoted to the malarial parasites, the rickettsiae, the psittacosis, lymphogranuloma venereum group, and the pox viruses. In each chapter, the growth, morphology, chemical composition and the metabolic capabilities of the parasites are reviewed. This information is correlated in an attempt to define the biochemical defects which limit the parasite to the intracellular environment and, further, to relate the biochemical activity to the pathogenesis of the disease produced by the parasite.

Moulder has successfully separated the "wheat from the chaff" in this monograph. By concentrating on pertinent data, he has produced an easily read narrative on each of the four parasitic groups. Biochemical reaction schemes and chemical structures are thoughtfully supplied when detailed explanations are necessary. Deficiencies in our knowledge of these parasites are repeatedly pointed out. The new interpretations which Moulder makes from the existing data provide stimulating reading of a long neglected subject. The book is highly recommended for workers already in the field of intracellular parasitism and should introduce new concepts to scientists interested in the general phenomenon of host-parasite relationships.

B. S. TEPPER

The Adrenal Cortex (*Brit. Med. Bull.* **18** (2) 1962), edited by F. T. G. PRUNTY. London, The British Council, 20s.

THIS issue of the *Bulletin*, comprising sixteen articles, maintains the expected high standard, and will be of particular help as a "refresher course" in the rapidly advancing subject of adrenocortical physiology. References are cited for 1962 and even for 1963! But M. Saffran's reference to "extra-adrenal effects of ACTH" is now out-of-date.

J. K. Grant's lucid article on the biogenesis of adrenal steroids mentions one unresolved problem—the essentiality of NADPH₂ (TPNH) for the hydroxylation of progesterone. Among other puzzling features are the role of the C₁₉ steroids ("adrenal androgens"), and the predominance of corticosterone in the adrenal secretion of the rat as mentioned in the Introduction by Prunty although not in the article on comparative aspects by Chester Jones and co-authors. The apparent "permissive" actions of adrenal steroids, as shown in pioneer experiments by Ingle and others, are rather neglected, as is the role of ascorbic acid in adrenocortical function. There is no unified discussion of the adrenal cortex in relation to cancer, or of the theories built up around "stress", although the latter subject is touched on by W. E. Balfour in connection with domestic animals, and by T. Symington in connexion with the morphology and cytology of the human adrenal. In general, however, there are few serious omissions.