at the hands of the printer. Also, the book has been far too long in the press—Newton, in an addendum, indicates that his chapter was complete in 1973.

Nevertheless, it comes at an opportune time. The World Health Organization has launched its Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases in an effort to concentrate attention on the six major communicable diseases that sap the health of millions in the developing countries. Trypanosomiasis is one of the six and this book will provide a valuable starting point for further research. It is no coincidence that most of the contributors are British. In appreciation of the major drain on human and agricultural resources that trypanosomiasis represents, the British Ministry of Overseas Development has for many years given modest but continuing support to research workers with an interest in obtaining a better understanding of these parasites so that the disease they cause may be brought under control or eradicated.

L. G. GOODWIN

Influenza, the viruses and the disease

By SIR CHARLES STUART-HARRIS and GEOFFREY C. SCHILD. 1976. London: Edward Arnold Ltd. Pp. x and 242. £12.00.

Influenza is a subject that must concern the medical microbiologist and virologist, who may be aware that a lot has been going on in his field recently, but wonders how in a busy life he will ever find time to read it up: the literature is now enormous and scattered through a wide range of journals—from those on pure virology to those on clinical medicine and epidemiology. I would advise such a person to get hold of this book and keep it by him for future reference.

There is first of all a useful, semi-historical introductory chapter, then chapters by Schild on the molecular virology, viral antigens and influenza viruses of the lower animals and birds. There is also a series of short appendices on laboratory methods, but they can only be used as a general guide; they are not sufficiently detailed to enable the tests to be set up without further information. Sir Charles Stuart-Harris provides a brief account of the disease in man, followed by chapters on epidemiology, immunity, vaccination and chemotherapy (jointly with Dr Schild). The text is up to date with substantial bibliographies to each chapter, and there is even a short section about the recent outbreak of swine influenza in man in the USA. There are a number of excellent electron micrographs, photographs of immunodiffusion plates and tables to illustrate the sections on the virus, and there are graphs, diagrams, structural formulae and tables to illustrate the other chapters.

Both authors are well known as international authorities and readers can rely on the text being accurate (in spite of a few trivial spelling errors), though naturally in a book of this size much of the earlier work on influenza is mentioned very briefly. The bibliography is fuller on recent work. It is quite easy from the text to find references to original papers if one wishes to go into a topic in more detail.

The sections by Sir Charles Stuart-Harris are particularly readable and could probably be understood without previous reading in the field; the sections on the virus presuppose some knowledge of basic virology and of virological methods. Both sections could be useful in finding a judicious answer to tricky questions that sometimes come the way of a diagnostic laboratory, such as how influenza virus spreads, whether epidemics can be predicted, what is the relation between human and animal influenza, whether anti-neuraminidase antibody has any effect or whether amantadine can be used for treating influenza.

One must once again regret the high price of this book but congratulate the authors and publishers on doing it so well.

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