to these papers (*Life*, 1940, 8, No. 10, 55) and also sometimes by trainmen to the bill of fare of the diner (*Amer. Speech*, 1940, 15, 342).

To this writer the word was pronounced *con-sist'* by an American trainman, exactly like the verb.

There is no change in nomenclature suggested here but, rather, an amplification of the existing language. No redefining of words is necessary; but it might be suggested that there are already established alternatives.

Matrix is not a synonym of *consist*, because that word implies a skeleton which is to be filled in. *Consist* offers a more ample description than can be attained by simply using the word *locus*, for that word has a connotation of singularity. *Lattice* seems to suggest a too-specific kind of physical structure. *Group* is too vague and is lacking in a sense of spatial order.

Con-sist', then, is suggested as a noun, defined as the significant elements of which something is constituted, together with all the relevant spatial arrangements of these elements.

SALLY MCKEE SCHLEGEL
17 Greenview Avenue, Princeton, New Jersey

Book Reviews

Renal hypertension. **Eduardo Braun-Menéndez, Juan Carlos Fasciolo, Luis F. Leloir, Juan M. Muñoz, and Alberto C. Taquini. (Translated by Lewis Dexter.) Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas, 1946. Pp. xxx + 451. (Illustrated.) $6.75.**

When the solution of a problem as important as that of arterial hypertension has received an initial impetus by some outstanding contribution, the literature soon becomes filled with a mass of isolated, unrelated, and often conflicting observations. Gradually, as basic concepts begin to form, the various parts of the puzzle fall into place, and the gaps in knowledge become evident. In this book, a translation of *Hipertension arterial nefrogena* (Buenos Aires: Libreria y Editorial "El Ateneo," 1943), most of these observations are collected, edited, and presented in an orderly manner in an attempt to fit them to basic concepts and to demonstrate in what direction further work should proceed. Probably no other work on arterial hypertension has covered the field as well. The authors of the original work have made outstanding contributions to our knowledge of the subject, and are therefore as well qualified as any other group to write such a book. The translator, who has made a number of important contributions on the subject, has himself worked with the authors and is therefore best qualified not only to have made the translation but to have brought the English edition up to date.

The volume of material reviewed may be estimated in part by the number of references. In the original Spanish edition there were 1,104; in the English translation, 1,238. The title itself limits the material covered to the role of the kidneys in arterial hypertension, both experimental and clinical, and therefore perhaps insufficient attention is paid to the mechanism of hypertension produced experimentally by other methods, notably alterations in the nervous system and endocrine organs. However, these aspects of the problem are also well reviewed in an attempt to join them with known renal mechanisms. As a reference book for workers in the field this work is ideal. To the casual reader it might be somewhat confusing, but it gives as comprehensive a review of the subject as one can find in book form.

There are numerous illustrations, charts, and graphs, most of them taken from the authors' own works. It is fitting that the frontispiece is a drawing of Prof. B. A. Houssay, a pioneer on this problem, under whose direction and leadership much of this work was done. He writes a stimulating prologue, which is far too short.

Almost a third of the book is concerned with human arterial hypertension. This part may perhaps be criticized by those who are unwilling to accept the hypothesis that the kidneys play a predominant etiological role in human arterial hypertension. The conditions which are of most interest to medical scientists, namely, so-called "essential" hypertension and so-called "malignant" hypertension, are included under the heading, "Hypertension, Probably of Renal Origin" in the authors' classification of the syndrome, and are considered as such in the discussion on both medical and surgical treatment. This renal bias is justifiable until proof of the contrary is offered. (It is of passing interest that the word "possibly" is substituted for "probably" in the chapter heading for this aspect, in both the original and translated editions.) At any rate, the book offers strong suggestive evidence for many of the similarities between experimental renal hypertension and that type commonly found in man, *i.e.* "essential" hypertension, and as such represents a school of thought initiated by Goldblatt in 1934. The book ends with this statement: "The crucial proof of the identity of both would be the demonstration in the blood of the renal pressor substance responsible for the hypertension. This proof is still lacking. . . ."; but there is no doubt how the authors really feel on the matter.

It is hoped that the translator will continue to keep the subject up to date in subsequent editions as he has so ably done in the present one.

HENRY A. SCHROEDER
Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis