

they occur in connection with tests or theoretical points. On the basis of my experience, I seriously doubt the feasibility or even the desirability of such an attempt.

Second, there are some organizational difficulties. As is indicated previously, the discussion of factor analysis is welcome, but it is introduced in such fashion that its principal treatment *follows* the sections that it could best illuminate and organize. Except for the first section, there is a somewhat regrettable lack of development around available theories in favor of a more encyclopedic approach.

These are things, however, that a skillful teacher can take into account, and they should not seriously reduce the book's potential usefulness. They should not be problems at all for the practicing psychologist who wants a sound, critical evaluation of recent developments. The field of tests and measurements seems about to embark on a new era in response to many recent and important developments. In some ways, Anastasi's book represents an excellent summary of progress. In other ways, it heralds the new directions of attack on critical problems of this field.

JOHN W. GUSTAD

*Department of Psychology, University of Maryland*

**Renal Function.** Trans. of the Fifth Conference 14-16 October 1953, Princeton, N.J. Stanley E. Bradley, Ed. Josiah Macy, Jr., Foundation, New York, 1954. 218 pp. Illus. \$3.75.

Since 1942 Frank Fremont-Smith has organized and directed, under the aegis of the Macy Foundation, a series of interdisciplinary conferences on medical and allied topics in which integration of the activities and accomplishments of workers in different fields seems especially called for. Not only has the interchange around the conference table proved of great value to the participants, but the published transactions have been notable evaluations of the status of the topics discussed, in a fashion that could be achieved only when the presentation of the investigator is subjected to questioning by *cognoscenti* in the field.

This volume records the fifth and last conference on renal function. The subjects included are "The nephrotic syndrome," by John A. Luetscher, Jr.; "The problem of kidney transplantation," by Benjamin F. Miller; and "Acute renal failure," by Graham McGregor Bull. Each essayist presents original and important work, and the uninhibited give-and-take of the discussion brings out the shadows as well as the highlights.

Luetscher details the most recent results of his important studies on sodium-retaining substances in the urine of patients with the nephrotic syndrome as well as the role of these substances in the pathogenesis of the edema. He finds that the sodium-retaining activity of nephrotic urine resides in a single chromatographic fraction with the reactions of an adrenocortical steroid.

Miller presents remarkable results with homotransplantation of the kidney in man. In one patient the transplanted kidney functioned for more than 5 mo. In an individual with polycystic disease, the transplanted kidney formed 2850 ml of urine on the 18th day, and on the 21st day there was an inulin clearance of 14.4 ml/min as contrasted with 2.1 ml by the polycystic kidneys.

Bull's work concerns renal function and treatment in acute tubular necrosis. Contrary to much (not all) opinion in this country, Bull prefers conservative management to dialysis.

The content of this volume is more clinical than that of the four preceding ones. It can be heartily recommended to clinicians interested in kidney disease, and it will prove of value to workers in renal physiology.

ARTHUR M. FISHBERG

*Department of Medicine, Beth Israel Hospital*

**Diagnostic Cytologique du Cancer Génital chez la Femme.** Raymond Bourg, Claude Gompel, and Jean-Paul Pundel. Masson, Paris, 1954. xiv + 176 pp. + atlas. Illus. + 84 plates. F. 4800.

For the English-speaking reader, the main interest of this book lies in the fact that, according to the authors, this is the first book in French that deals with the cytological diagnosis of genital cancer of the woman. Written for the use of practicing physicians, the book gives a comprehensive and vivid description of the usefulness, limitations, methods, and techniques of exfoliative cytology in investigation of female genital pathology. The illustrations and microphotographs, which comprise the larger part of the book, are clear and instructive and should prove very helpful to anyone starting to investigate exfoliated cells. A short description of the cyclic changes that occur in the vaginal epithelium and of their importance in the study of normal hormonal functions might have made the treatment of the subject more complete. The book may be of great value in disseminating the knowledge of a method, the importance of which has been proved and is now routinely used throughout America.

CORNELIA HOCH-LIGETI

*Department of Pathology, University of Virginia*

**Isotopic Gas Analysis for Biochemists.** R. F. Glascock. Academic Press, New York, 1954. viii + 247 pp. Illus. \$5.80.

Methods for the radioactive analysis of carbon-14 and tritium as gaseous compounds are generally more sensitive and more precise than solid-sample radioactive assay procedures. Although gas-phase procedures have been used for many years, such methods are not as widely used as they could be. Part of this lack of use stems from the expense for complex gas-handling and electronic equipment, but part of the trouble comes from lack of usable information for