modulators of autonomous rhythms, variations in responsiveness of end organs and differences in the substrate on which the hormones act. New and interesting viewpoints are proposed, and if there is not always agreement there is always interesting and stimulating discussion. At the end, in the chairman's closing remarks, Zuckerman ably and skillfully brings together the scattered facts and theories and adds his penetrating comments on the problems of reproduction and endocrinology.

The book is one of the best to appear in this field for many a day and probably the best recent one on comparative endocrinology.

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Guide Pratique de Mycologie Médicale. A l'usage des médecins, des laboratoires et des botanistes précédé d'un tableau d'orientation diagnostique et thérapeutique. Jean Coudert. Masson, Paris, 1955. 364 pp. + plates. Cloth, F. 6000; paper, F. 5200.

If anyone should question the fundamental biological importance of taxonomy in this day of ATP and DNA, he has only to look to the fungi that are pathogenic to man to see a frightening example of the consequences of confused taxonomy and improper nomenclature. Since most of the human pathogens reproduce only asexually, and since all of them are presumably haploid, it is possible for many morphological mutations to become evident, so that to some workers there are almost as many species as there are isolates. This situation, which is perhaps analogous to that in such taxonomically "difficult" genera as *Rubus* or *Crataegus* in the higher plants, has tempted workers to describe a bewildering number of species. Nomenclatorial confusion has been added to this taxonomic difficulty, so that it requires an intrepid and dedicated individual to attempt to bring some sort of order to this chaos. Yet, to do so is of great practical importance to insure accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment of fungous diseases.

The *Guide Pratique de Mycologie Médicale* is intended to be a simplified guide to medical mycology for the use of clinicians and biologists. The book is divided into three parts. The first part deals with the techniques of medical mycology—methods of taking samples from lesions, methods for direct microscopic examination, media for the cultivation of pathogenic fungi, directions for the macro- and microscopic observation of cultures, verification of pathogenicity by animal inoculation, and immunological procedures.

The second part of the book is devoted to dichotomous keys for the identification of fungi that have been reported to be pathogenic. One major key provides for the identification of genera that cause mycoses of the epidermis and its extensions; another is for the separation of genera that cause deep-seated mycoses; and more refined keys lead to the identification of species.

The third section of the book contains descriptions of the genera and species treated. The genera are arranged according to a phylogenetic sequence, and within each genus the species are arranged alphabetically. For each species there is a concise statement of the type of disease(s) caused, method of securing samples, appearance under direct examination, macro- and microscopic appearance of cultures, immunology, epidemiology, and, in some cases, the relationships of the pathogen.

One feature of this book which serves to set it apart from many of the recent works on medical mycology is the organization of the major part in accordance with the phylogeny of the pathogens rather than on a basis of the diseases that they cause. This type of organization has the advantage of indicating the position of a given pathogen in the scheme of living things, but the dermatologist might question whether this arrangement is practical for clinical use, and some mycologists may be dissatisfied with the particular phylogenetic scheme that was followed. Moreover, the assignment of some forms that lack sexual reproduction to natural groups may not meet with universal approval. It is surprising, for example, to find *Coccidioides,* the causal agent of coccidioidomycosis or valley fever, assigned, even tentatively, to the Chytridiales when it possesses almost none of the characteristics of this Phycomycete order.

The provision of dichotomous keys for the identification of pathogenic fungi is another unusual and laudable feature of this book; however, the usefulness of the keys could have been extended greatly by the inclusion of adequate illustrations. To be sure, there are eight plates of sketches of assorted structures, but these cannot substitute for clear illustrations of the diagnostic features of each species. In the dermatophytes, at least, it would be difficult for the clinician to supplement the descriptions by consulting illustrations in the most recent books on medical mycology, because the names employed for the genera and species differ from those recognized by workers in this country.

Although the *Guide Pratique de Mycologie Médicale* is to be praised for its approach to a difficult subject, dermatologists may find it to be of limited usefulness, because of its brief consideration of clinical symptoms and treatment. Some mycologists may question the validity of many of the large number of species recognized, and all will regret that, through improper citation of species, the book contributes to the confusion of nomenclature which has done so much to hinder the progress of medical mycology.

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Cancer of the Lung. Pathology, diagnosis, and treatment. Milton B. Rosenblatt and James R. Lisa. Oxford Univ. Press, New York, 1956. 330 pp. Illus. $15.

The different chapters of this book are written by specialists in the fields, and I cannot have the specialists' knowledge in all of them. Since it is the same with the reader, my impressions may still be worth while.

The authors, as is stated in the foreword, expect all practitioners of medicine to profit from the book. This is true for the clinical chapters, but it is doubtful how much a nonspecialist can profit from the detailed descriptions of surgical technique and the accompanying small sketches. Some of the x-ray pictures are difficult to interpret, even for a specialist. The general practitioner will not recognize a "thin-walled cavity" in Fig. 8, page 126, or the pneumothorax on Fig. 6B, page 250, and he may be entirely at a loss how to interpret the rectangular shadow on Fig. 6, page 148.

Pathology does not fare much better. In many of the photomicrographs the details as listed in the legends cannot be studied because magnifications are too low or contrast is lacking. The diagrams in the chapter on surgical pathology are instructive, while those concerning radical Roentgen therapy call for a specialist's eye. The chapter on exfoliative cytology also contains pictures that only the specialist can appreciate, but the text makes profitable reading for every physician.

The term *hilar* is used—on pages 50 and 72, for example—in a wider sense than is customary in anatomy and pathology. The fact is justly stressed that more cures cannot be expected from progress in surgical techniques but only from diagnosis in the preinvasive stage. (I would like to add: and from prevention.) At present, cure or long-time survival can be expected in less than 5 percent of the total cases diagnosed. Routine Roentgen examinations in doctors' offices, clinics, and hospitals are considered to