be sufficiently high to justify a strong warning of this danger and to indicate that additional investigation of the mechanisms of this effect is needed. The established danger of water retention when high doses of oxytocin are administered is not mentioned. This could well have been added to further emphasize the conclusion about "the need for continuous supervision of the patient."

Two papers are concerned with the so-called oxytocin-sensitivity test. The first is a review of 10 years of work done with this controversial test. The data presented give convincing evidence that this test can be applied to predict whether labor can be successfully induced by amniotomy. Readers must be warned that most of the content of the summary of this paper is not elaborated in the text. The second paper on the test adds valuable data on results obtained using a simplified technique.

In his introduction to this second part of the symposium, the chairman, G. W. Theobald, begins with an acknowledgement of the "great pharmaceutical firms who plough back so large a part of their profits into research." In this introduction he makes the statement that some of this research has "provided elegant demonstrations of the relations existing between chemical structure and biological function." Although much progress towards this goal has been made in more than one laboratory, the present situation is well described by the passage quoted from Dickens by E. J. W. Barrington in *Hormones and Evolution*: "This is all very well, Mr. Nickleby, and very proper, so far as it goes—so far as it goes, but it doesn't go far enough."

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Geomorphic Problems

In the preface to **Essays in Geomorphology** (Elsevier, New York, 1966. 416 pp., illus. $14), the editor, G. H. Dury of the University of Sydney, states that the unifying theme is a systematic approach to geomorphic problems. However, a wide variety of topics is discussed.

The first essay, "Pleistocene shorelines" by N. Stephens and F. M. Synge, is essentially a summary of the literature dealing with the shorelines in the British Isles and some of continental Europe produced by changing Pleistocene sea levels. Although pertaining primarily to the British Isles, the problems discussed apply equally well to other parts of the world.

The second essay, "Slope failure and morphogenetic regions" by R. Common, admittedly deals with a very complex problem. It does not get too far with this problem largely because of the lack of quantitative data bearing upon it.

In the next essay, "Landforms of the western MacDonnell ranges," J. A. Mabbutt attempts to explain some unusual drainage patterns in Australia. The major thesis of the essay is that the topography and drainage are largely inherited from past geomorphic cycles when the climate was more humid. This essay represents an interesting analysis of the landforms of the area.

J. C. Pugh's essay, "The landforms of low latitudes," deals primarily with the origin of pediments and associated erosional remnants under tropical climates. Comparisons and contrasts are made between their development under wet tropical conditions and the less humid savanna climates.

W. W. Bishop's essay on "Stratigraphical geomorphology" is of interest, if for no other reason, because it deals with an aspect of geomorphology which has been badly neglected, the possibility of dating erosion surfaces by means of the sediments produced during their development. This represents a very commendable attempt to point up a phase of geomorphology which needs increased attention.

"The weathering of limestones," by M. M. Sweeting, deals with the scar and scree topography of northern England. It puts forth an interesting hypothesis that much of the present topography in this area can be explained in terms of glacial erosion or erosion by glacial meltwaters. The last half of the essay attempts to arrive at some quantitative estimates of the rate of denudation of limestone terrains.

G. H. Dury's essay deals with the topic "The concept of grade." There has been much discussion of this topic in recent years and much difference of opinion regarding its validity. The ideas of such geomorphologists as Davis, Kesseli, Mackin, Leopold, Wolman, Maddock, and Langbein are presented. Dury ends up by concluding that the concept of grade has little value in the analysis of landforms, a conclusion that is not likely to meet with general acceptance.

The last two essays, "Morphometry from maps" by J. I. Clarke, and "The application of statistical methods to geomorphology," by R. J. Chorley, will probably have the greatest appeal to the rising new generation of quantitative geomorphologists. Although they present little that is new, they do present excellent summaries of the applications of various mathematical approaches to the study of landforms, and it is useful to have a summary of the many papers that have been written in recent years dealing with statistical techniques in geomorphology.

On the whole the essays are well written, but there is marked variation in the quality of the illustrations. Practically all of the essays are accompanied by excellent bibliographies which will be particularly useful to those Americans who are not too familiar with the foreign literature. Although some of the essays deal with areas not too familiar to Americans they concern problems that pertain to many parts of the world. *Essays in Geomorphology* is not a book that you will read and digest overnight, but it should be a welcome addition to the library of every serious geomorphologist.

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New Books

Biological and Medical Sciences

Advances in Metabolic Disorders. vol. 2. Rachmiel Levine and Rolf Luft, Eds. Academic Press, New York, 1965. 289 pp. Illus. $11. Five papers: "Gout" by James B. Wyngaarden; "Nitrogen-retaining steroids and their application in disease" by A. Querido and A. A. H. Kassenaar; "Macroglobulinemia" by Jan Waldenström; "Testing the functional capacity of the tryptophan-niacin pathway in man by analysis of urinary metabolites" by J. M. Price, R. R. Brown, and Norma Yess; and "The syndrome of testicular feminization" by A. Louis Southren.

Advances in Veterinary Science. vol. 10. C. A. Brandly and Charles Cornelius, Eds. Academic Press, New York, 1965. 319 pp. Illus. $13. Seven papers: "Intrauterine fetal surgery" by Keith L. Kraner; "Vesicular exanthema" by R. A. Bankowski; "Rift Valley fever" by Bernard C. Easterday; "Bovine enzootic leukosis" by Hans

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