

The Measurement of Soil Properties in the Triaxial Test

By Dr. Alan W. Bishop and D. J. Henkel. Pp. viii+190. (London: Edward Arnold (Publishers), Ltd., 1957.) 70s. net.

THE Department of Soil Mechanics in the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, has a standing in teaching and research second to none among schools of soil mechanics, and its students are drawn from all over the world. This is at once an assurance that the training given is valued and widely disseminated. Dr. A. W. Bishop is reader and Mr. D. J. Henkel lecturer in this Department, and to read their book is to be taken with firm direction through a course of instruction in their own laboratory; to be taught sufficient about the application of triaxial tests to appreciate their significance, and much of the art of making the tests and keeping them meaningful. The authors tell us they do not intend their book as a manual, presumably because they have limited themselves to describing the methods and theories which have been developed at the Imperial College, but though it may not be a manual, there is no doubt that for many readers it will form an adequate text-book. Its four parts deal with the practical application of test data; the detailed construction of apparatus; the standard tests for which the apparatus is intended, and various special tests for which it may be used.

The ground is covered thoroughly, and where points of theory or application are not presented, the relevant references to the literature are given. Particularly welcome are the sections concerning the determination of the pore pressure parameters *A* and *B*, which form the basis of the concept of shear strength introduced by Skempton and Bishop in 1954. The book is well produced and contains many diagrams, detailed drawings and photographs of apparatus. Soil-mechanics engineers will welcome it as a work of reference, but its price will cause a student to debate the need for adding it to his own bookshelf.

THOMAS WHITAKER

Clinical Hæmatology in Medical Practice

By G. C. de Gruchy. Pp. xii+620. (Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications; Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas, 1958.) 50s. net.

IN the best organized institutions the physician and hæmatologist work in close collaboration. The hæmatologist must know enough about the clinical state of the patient to know which tests are appropriate, and the physician must know enough about hæmatology to be able to interpret the results. Dr. de Gruchy's book provides just this information. It gives an accurate balanced account of hæmatological disorders with enough clinical details to enlighten the hæmatologist and enough about the interpretation of technique for the physician. It would be very easy for such a book to become unwieldy, but Dr. de Gruchy has avoided this by the total omission of technical detail and the free use of tabulation. The presentation is somewhat dogmatic and it is this which makes the book so easy to read. But, of course, it is never possible to be dogmatic and agree with all workers on every subject. For example, it is probable that workers with experience in the surgical treatment of hæmophilic patients would not consider that a transfusion of 20 ml. of fresh plasma per kgm. body-weight would be likely to control bleeding. However, such details are really

irrelevant; anyone wishing to undertake some very specialized treatment would naturally consult original papers on the subject and would not rely exclusively on a book, the main object of which is the general education of physicians and clinical pathologists.

R. BIGGS

Clinical Enzymology

Edited by Dr. Gustav J. Martin. Pp. vii+241. (London: J. and A. Churchill, Ltd., 1958.) 42s. net.

ALTHOUGH clinical enzymology is not a new sphere of activity in medical science it is a subject that has been greatly fostered by the purification and crystallization of enzymes during recent years. From this has come a realization that enzymes can be usefully administered parenterally in many instances. This book begins with a discussion of protein biology and the chemistry and biochemistry of enzymes which are of clinical value. The diagnostic use and the therapeutic action of enzymes are also considered and the book concludes with a discussion of future possibilities. The parenteral administration of trypsin in particular has been of value in the treatment of conditions involving intravascular clotting, in the treatment of infected wounds, and in a wide range of infections generally. On the whole, the anti-inflammatory action of the enzyme is the most striking. Other enzymes which have been used parenterally include streptokinase, deoxyribonuclease, hyaluronidase, and cholinesterase, but for the value of the use of most of these by parenteral administration only fragmentary evidence exists. It can be said without hesitation, however, that the medical use of parenteral enzymes is bound to grow and there is no doubt that clinical enzymology has come to stay.

F. G. YOUNG

Scientific and Learned Societies of Great Britain

A Handbook compiled from Official Sources. 59th edition. Pp. 215. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1958.) 35s. net.

THIS book, the third of its kind, derives from the "Yearbook of Scientific and Learned Societies", which ceased publication in 1939 after appearing almost continuously for more than fifty years. It is now edited by the British Council.

The greater part of the book consists of a list of nearly a thousand societies, ranging from the Royal Society down to the small local natural history societies, grouped under sixteen headings. Particulars of the objects, membership, meetings, publications, museum and library of each society are given. Some of the entries are of societies not strictly scientific, but inclusion is no doubt preferable to omission in compilations of this sort. The criterion is, in general, whether a society gives educational facilities to its members, or publishes original work.

There is also a list of the principal organizations conducting officially sponsored research, and a select bibliography on the organization of scientific research in Great Britain. In the former, universities, technical colleges and laboratories attached to commercial firms are, of course, not included; but neither are the industrial research organizations. These are officially sponsored since they receive Department of Scientific and Industrial Research grants, and they might usefully be brought into future editions.