immediately grasp the significance of the statement that "through loss of elasticity, the aorta ceases to function as a Windkessel"? Many other sections of the book show the turgid English that can result from translation from German. Few readers will find it possible to absorb in large sections and it seems likely that the book, beautifully and expensively produced, will find its chief use as an introduction to German literature in the fields covered.

T. CRAWFORD

ANOTHER NEW JOURNAL

Coagulation

Vol. 1. Nos. 1–4 (Simep Editions: Lyon, 1968.) France 60 F; other countries 80 F per vol.

PERHAPS the greatest surge of activity in the field of blood coagulation took place in the 1950s: several new clotting factors were recognized, their chemical characteristics defined and their roles in the coagulation mechanism and in haemostasis and thrombosis hotly debated. Most of this work was reported in journals of physiology, haematology and experimental medicine, but towards the end of the period a new international journal was founded, devoted specifically to thrombosis, haemorrhagic diatheses and related topics. During the subsequent decade, work on blood coagulation has continued somewhat less intensively, and the emphasis has now shifted to other aspects of haemostasis and thrombosis, particularly the study of platelet function and biochemistry and of the fibrinolytic mechanism.

Is there then a need for another new journal devoted to blood coagulation? Though it is hard to give an affirmative answer to this question, the appearance of this quarterly French journal could perhaps be defended on two counts: it is not strictly an addition to the ever-growing number of scientific journals, because it effectively replaces *Hémostase*, which ceased publication after a life of only six years, and, in spite of its title, it covers the other aspects of haemostasis at least as fully as coagulation.

Even in this broader field, a journal should be truly international if it is to fulfil its proper function of ensuring wide dissemination of good and original papers. It is to be doubted whether sufficient work in this field derives from French-speaking countries alone to justify a purely French journal, and an attempt has therefore been made to give this new journal an international flavour. Papers are published in French or English, with summaries in both these languages and also in German and Spanish. The journal also includes sections of abstracts, book reviews and reports of scientific meetings: all of these sections are in French only. Half of the editorial board and three-quarters of the scientific committee of the journal are from countries other than France, as are half of the contributors to the first four issues.

No papers have yet been published from outside Europe and only about one in five of the first year's papers are in English. It would seem unlikely that this language distribution will appeal strongly to writers in English who must be expected to prefer to submit their papers to journals published largely or entirely in English. At present, therefore, *Coagulation* seems to fall between two stools: it is neither national nor truly international, and its editorial board must decide in which direction they propose to steer it. The more rewarding though perhaps the more difficult path would be in the international direction. Meanwhile, the journal deserves to be brought to the notice of workers in this field, particularly those with a clinical bias. Its first volume contains a number of interesting papers, if nothing of outstanding originality.

R. M. HARDISTY

IMMUNE RESPONSE

Immunological Tolerance

A Reassessment of Mechanisms of the Immune Response. Edited by Maurice Landy and Werner Braun. (Proceedings of an International Conference held at Brook Lodge, Augusta, Michigan, September 18–20, 1968.) Pp. xv+352. (Academic Press: New York and London, April 1969.) 70*s*.

THIS report is an edited version of the discussion which took place when some forty-two scientists, most of them acknowledged leaders in their respective fields, met in September 1968 at an international conference organized by the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. As such it is a welcome change from the familiar collection of formal papers which all too often appears in book form a year or two after a scientific conference.

The subject of the conference was ostensibly immunological tolerance, but the subtitle of the report, "A Reassessment of Mechanisms of the Immune Response", gives a better idea of the scope of the discussions.

The material is arranged under six main headings. The first two deal primarily with the extent to which the possibility of inducing tolerance is determined by various properties of the antigen concerned and by the dose in which it is administered. The old question of whether or not individual cells can become specifically tolerant is posed once again and the general opinion seems to be that this does occur when specific tolerance is induced in adult animals whereas natural tolerance involves clonal deletion; formal proof (or disproof) of this proposition seems, however, to be as elusive as ever. In so far as tolerance does occur at the cellular level, various possible mechanisms are suggested including "receptor purging".

The next three sections are devoted to the role of lymphocytes of various kinds and macrophages in immunological responses, and these are followed by a concluding section in which some of the questions raised previously are discussed in greater depth in an uninhibited and speculative way.

The report is lively and at times exciting to read; against this, however, it appears somewhat disjointed because many of the questions raised are not followed up at the time, and some are not followed up at all. It cannot therefore be recommended to a neophyte who wants a concise account of immunological tolerance; on the other hand, the kind of person who might well have been invited to participate in the conference but somehow wasn't may derive considerable consolation from reading the book. It is difficult to predict the reactions of the very large number of people who do not fall into either of those categories. It is to be hoped, therefore, that those who do read the book will make their views known so that in due course some firm conclusions can be drawn about the value of what is undoubtedly an interesting experiment in scientific communication.

MICHAEL WOODRUFF

HYBRID REACTIONS

Analytical Serology of Microorganisms

Vol. 1. Edited by J. B. G. Kwapinski. Pp. x+681. (Interscience (Wiley): New York and London, June 1969.) 235*s*.

THE evident purpose of this book is to describe what is known of the antigens of various types of organisms and how their serological reactions may be studied. Thus, each chapter concerns one group like "Mycoplasmatales" or "Animal Viruses" and is subdivided into sections on classification, antigens, serological

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