

## BOOK REVIEW

### ADVANCES IN BLOOD GROUPING

Alexander S. Wiener, New York, Grune and Stratton 1961, 549 pp.

Despite the title this is not a text book, a review of recent advances nor a technical manual. Twelve dollars will purchase facsimile reprints of papers which the author has written himself or in which he has collaborated between 1946 and 1960. Each reprint is dignified by a chapter heading even though originally it may have represented merely a letter to the editor. A scant semblance of order has been obtained by very rough grouping of subject matter into fourteen sections but there is gross overlapping, indeed this is unavoidable in such a collection of papers.

The facsimiles do not sit kindly by one another and it is worrisome to turn a page and pass from 14 point type in single columns which can almost be read across the room to double columns of type so minute as to approach the limit of optical resolution; in fact one may encounter five different formats and founts in five consecutive papers.

Anyone seeking information on blood grouping will probably be disappointed. Of the 57 "chapters" 30 are devoted to the Rh-Hr system. There is almost no discussion of the sub-groups of the M-N-S System, Lutheran, P, "universal" or "private" types. There is no mention of the peculiar and fascinating features of the Lewis system nor can I find any discussion of the even more fascinating gene deletions encountered among the Metis and Channel Islanders in the Rh and M-N-S systems respectively. Dr. Wiener's dislike of the C-D-E notation is well known and one is not surprised to find that index reference to the Fisher-Race terminology is limited to a short polemic "letter to the editor".

It is disturbing to find, however, that he proposes to use the notation anti-C (albeit boldface) for anti-H and Ff for the Duffy factors regardless of the present wide usage of both c and f for allelic genes in the Rh system. Surely no good can come from total disregard of the views of others—only confusion and further muddying of waters which at their best are none too clear. R.R. Race's cogent comment of 1946 is best kept in mind ". . . there has been far too much reiteration on this subject, by both British and American workers". It is a pity that Dr. Wiener does not agree—if he did he would not have published this tedious collection. I cannot recommend it.

