

## BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKRESENSIES

### DETERMINATION OF BLOOD GROUPS

*The Determination of the ABO and Rh (D) Blood Groups for Transfusion.* Medical Research Council Memorandum No. 36. (Revision of War Memorandum No. 9.) Pp. vi+46. 3s. 6d. net. London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

This small handbook (46 pages) first appeared in 1943 as War Memorandum No. 9, when it admirably filled the need for concise and practical guidance, a very real need which was occasioned at that time by the great upsurge in blood transfusion activities in both military and civilian practice.

The revised edition of this handbook is timely and welcome, since it is quite up-to-date, having been rewritten and expanded, without having lost in the process the balanced presentation of basic matter which so thoroughly justified its previous existence. As the title indicates, it is to cater for the need of those persons

who have to give transfusions that the Medical Research Council produced this book. Fortunately, it has again succeeded admirably in its stated intention of setting out clearly 'the relatively simple, but essential, aspects of the subject which need to be known by all persons who bear responsibility, whether clinically or in the laboratory, for the giving of blood transfusions'.

The handbook sensibly confines itself to the Fisher symbols when dealing with the Rh blood group system. This practice has the merit of such simplicity as might persuade the uninitiated to take a second look at the subject, while at the same time the contents are thereby made available in familiar terms to the majority of the English-speaking world.

At the advertised price this handbook must surely represent as sound an investment as a medical practitioner and student of medicine can make today.

M.C.B.