

BOOK REVIEW : BOEKBESPREKING

EMBRYOLOGY

A Textbook of Human Embryology. 2nd ed. By R. G. Harrison, M.A., D.M. Pp. xi + 248. Illustrated. R4.75. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1963.

This textbook of embryology has a somewhat unusual approach to the subject. The early chapters, occupying about one-quarter of the text, give a full account of the male and female reproductive systems, and of the pituitary and suprarenal glands, matters that belong to the subject of reproduction. These subjects are usually discussed in textbooks of anatomy and physiology, but are perhaps rightly regarded by

the author as pertaining to embryology. In the introduction, Professor Harrison emphasizes the steroid nature of many organisms and suggests a biochemical affinity between embryological processes and tumour formation.

As a matter of slight criticism, some of the transverse sections of the embryo (e.g. Figs. 59, 62) are not clearly printed, right and left sides not being easily distinguishable, and the chapter on the urogenital system would be improved by having a few more diagrammatic figures to illustrate the text.

A comparison with the 1st edition reveals practically no changes, and a 2nd edition within four years shows that the book has proved popular with students. J.A.K.