VOLUME THIRTEEN
1957

Advisory Editor

SIR WILLIAM Mac ARTHUR

* PHYSIOLOGY AND PATHOLOGY OF THE KIDNEY
Scientific Editor . . . CLIFFORD WILSON

* THE LIVER: SOME PHYSIOLOGICAL AND CLINICAL ASPECTS
Scientific Editor . . . N. F. MACLAGAN

* AUTONOMIC NERVOUS SYSTEM
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When the Advisory Editor of the British Medical Bulletin honoured me with an invitation to write some kind of introduction to this number, I looked forward with unusual interest to the opportunity of reading the articles in which various authors, each of them from his own special angle, were presumably to deal with more or less recent advances in knowledge of the Autonomic Nervous System. I became conscious at once, however, of an inclination to wonder how many discoveries these relatively recent decades might have yielded, which could be regarded as concerned directly, or in any strict sense, with the structure and the functions of this particular section of the nervous system. I have also been conscious, of course, of what is doubtless in smaller degrees a matter of more general experience, in finding myself now increasingly unable to maintain more than a glancing contact with the records of what has been happening, even in the special field of the activities and interests which once were mine in a fuller sense. Making all proper allowance, however, for personal inadequacy of this kind, I still found it difficult to convince myself that it would be possible to muster, for discussion, a range of such relatively new advances in knowledge of the autonomic system itself, sufficient to supply the material for a Bulletin of