edition, might very well have daunted less 
dedicated authors. In fact, within its chosen limits, the 
book is an extraordinarily effective and highly 
critical synthesis of the available information, in 
which not only facts and hypotheses, but the 
techniques used to obtain them, are subjected to 
penetrating scrutiny. Purification methods, elec-
trophoresis, immuno-electrophoresis, chromatog-
raphy, ultracentrifugation, viscosity determina-
tions and many other methods are considered and 
theroughly discussed, often with a large amount 
of useful technical detail. Most medical men 
would be delighted if any book approaching this 
quality was available that dealt with the applica-
tions of immunology in medicine in this critical 
fashion.

In this respect this book will not help them; 
its attitude is basically chemical, and little atten-
tion is paid, except incidentally, to the bio-
logical problems involved. This does not alter the 
fact that no serious immunologist can afford to be 
without it.

**Pye's Surgical Handicraft**: Vol 1 General 
edited by Hamilton Bailey FRCS(Eng) FACS 
FRS(Edin)
18th ed pp xiv+487 illustrated 40s 
Bristol: John Wright 1962

The life of most medical books is fleeting, yet a 
few seem to lap the years with an ageless ease. 
Amongst these elect, 'Pye' may well claim to be 
*primum inter pares*. First published when Lord 
Lister was still alive and now in its 77th year and 
18th edition, it is a well of information for the 
newly qualified. The late Mr Hamilton Bailey 
was the editor for the last twenty years and the 
book's success is largely due to his genius. 
Possessed of an intuitive understanding of the 
difficulties of the novice, he commanded a style 
which owes much to the techniques of modern 
journalism. Brevity of expression, abundant sub-
headings and a profusion of pictures are all used 
to force home each point. Approve or disapprove, 
the result is eminently readable. Perhaps more 
startling was his ability to shape a numerous and 
diverse band of contributors, such as in the 
present book, into the same common mould. 
A roll call of the chapters would be wearisome 
but they are all written by experts and provide 
the solution to whatever predicament the fates or 
his chiefs may visit on the unfortunate houseman.

Acting on the advice of a previous reviewer 
that 'a Pye in the pocket is worth two in the 
library', the editor has split the present edition 
to two pocket-sized volumes. The first and 
present one deals with general surgery and a 
second is promised on the specialties. He has 
thus avoided that unwieldy bulk which is the 
besetting sin of the modern textbook. The pub-
lishers are now faced with the difficult task of 
finding another editor with Hamilton Bailey's 
flair. If they succeed, there is no doubt that 'Pye' 
will put up its century.

**Medical Genetics 1958–1960**

An annotated review 
by Victor A McKusick MD 
pp 534 illustrated £5 8s 6d 
*St Louis: C V Mosby London: Henry Kimpton 1961*

This volume has grown out of the activities of 
what is clearly a very successful and efficient 
journal club. The literature is treated separately 
for each of the three years. The abstracts are 
conveniently grouped, with a system of numbering 
which makes reference to subjects or authors 
simple and convenient. There are no less than 
some 2,500 references altogether. The abstracts 
vary greatly in length according to the importance 
attached to each piece of work by Dr McKusick 
and his collaborators. Critical comments are often 
included. Naturally, on particular points others 
might sometimes differ in the weight given to 
different pieces of work and in their assessment, 
but on the whole a nice balance is preserved.

The book will be invaluable to all those inter-
ested in medical genetics. Those working in other 
fields may well feel envious of this interesting, 
well-arranged, convenient, and remarkably com-
plete guide to the literature. It is much to be 
hoped that Dr McKusick's department will con-
tinue to provide similar reviews for subsequent 
years.

**Gravitational Stress in Aerospace Medicine**

edited by Otto H Gauer MD and 
George D Zuiderma MD 
pp xvi+278 illustrated £4 17s 6d 
*London: J & A Churchill 1961*

This book has as its stated purpose the harvesting 
and winnowing of all the known data on the 
physiological effects of acceleration. Its bound-
aries range, therefore, from the earliest work on 
the mechanism of black-out to the behaviour of 
the central nervous system during weightlessness, 
and from the clinical evaluation of low tolerance 
to the problems of escape from highspeed air-
craft. It is not surprising that the 14 contributors 
have produced a crop of rather uneven quality.

The first half of the book deals with the cardio-
vascular physiology of positive 'g' (in which the 
resultant forces act from the head towards the 
feet), and it is largely an exercise in hydrostatics. 
The reflex responses of the circulation are dis-
cussed perfunctorily, but the implications of the 
findings in normal physiology are ignored. This 
omission is even more apparent in the section 
dealing with negative 'g', which, although it