literature dealing with those manifestations of the spread of human tumours which are to be observed by clinician and pathologist. It is a curious mixture consisting of catalogues of secondary tumours in various sites, little clinical asides, interesting short scientific essays based on his wide experience and reading, anecdotes, and of course a hobbyhorse or two—mesothelioma, Ewing's sarcoma, and details of all-but-forgotten polemics.

With his direct and deceptively effortless style he has produced a work which, though parts of it are recondite, is for the general medical reader and is as readily to be comprehended and enjoyed by medical student and staff nurse as by their seniors. It is interesting, informative, and thought-provoking, but marred by the author's deliberate avoidance of mention and discussion of contemporary interests in tumour behaviour, for example, the modification of tumour spread resulting from treatment, the nature and spread of Hodgkin's disease, Burkitt's lymphoma, the immunological factors in tumour behaviour, and, though the retrogression of several varieties of metastatic tumours is listed, the matter is left there without comment.

Where he does discuss topics that interest him, he is marvellously lucid and a fine protagonist for his beliefs.

Far too much space is taken up with statements of the type 'multiple intestinal deposits but with the liver clear were recorded by Ogle (1856), Godlee (1847), Thompson (1899), Davidson (1909), Goldzicher (1913), di Biassi (1926) . . . ' or 'Sturt (1900) saw secondary growths in stomach, small intestine, colon, kidneys, adrenals, pancreas, gall bladder, bones, lung and brain but only two small subcapsular nodules in the liver.'

What we could do with is drastic pruning of the cataloguing, and expansion of Willis's mature considerations of the wider aspects of tumour spread, in which field he is a savant. The illustrations are excellent and well related to the author's theme.

R. L. CARTER

Practical Clinical Hematology. Interpretations and Techniques By Paul L. Wolf, Patricia Ferguson, Irma Torquati Mills, Elisabeth Von der Muehl, and Mary Thompson. (Pp. xviii + 468; 127 figures. £8.50.) Chichester, New York, Sydney, Tokyo, Mexico City: John Wiley and Sons. 1973.

As its title would suggest this book is mainly concerned with the practical aspect of clinical haematology, but

essentially from the laboratory viewpoint. It in no way attempts to, nor does it, supplant what must be recognized as the standard text in this field, Dacie's 'Practical haematology'. However, it might usefully be considered as an adjunct to the latter, in which more space is given over to theoretical considerations than is the case here.

The authors have described, in alphabetical order, a range of about 120 tests, ranging from the acid serum test to Wright's stain, the great proportion of which are infrequent laboratory use, as practised at the Stanford Clinical Laboratory.

The methods, both haematological and chemical, are described in considerable detail, under headings of 'Principle', 'Specimen requirement', 'Reagents and equipment', and 'Procedure', and are easy to follow. Each one is accompanied by a short section on interpretation and a modest number of references are included where appropriate.

Almost everything is covered, except serology which is planned for a further volume.

The final section is a collection of black and white photographs of cytology and cytochemistry, which is well produced, but which would have benefited from being in colour, particularly for teaching purposes. This would, no doubt, have made the cost prohibitive, but I have my doubts as to the value of special stains, in particular, photographed in black and white.

The book should prove a valuable reference and will be particularly useful in laboratories perhaps for the less frequently performed investigation. This is not to imply that there is a mass of esoteric tests; far from it, these have been kept to an absolute minimum.

A useful addition.

H. M. CLINK

Medical Microbiology. A Guide to the Laboratory Diagnosis and Control of Infection 12th ed. Volume 1. Microbial Infections Edited by Robert Cruickshank, J. P. Duguid, B. P. Marmion, and R. H. A. Swain. (Pp. xii + 667; illustrated. £4.75, paperback; £6.50, cased.) Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone. 1973.

'Medical microbiology', now edited by a distinguished quartet of Scottish microbiologists, has undergone binary fission. The first volume deals with microbial infections and is aimed at those who work at the bedside rather than in the laboratory; technique is to be dealt with in the second volume to be published shortly.

This change will undoubtedly be welcomed by medical students and clinicians interested in microbiology because they can now acquire a comprehensive volume containing sufficient information to satisfy them about bacteria, viruses, fungi, and protozoa without a large amount of technical detail. There is also a clear account of the principles of infection and immunity. A section on diagnosis and control of infection is provided and also appendices dealing with specimens required for diagnosis. There is no extensive bibliography but references for further reading are recommended at the end of each chapter. This volume is well illustrated with diagrams, electron micrographs, and some colour photographs and is very good value at £4.75 (paperback).

The strategy of antimicrobial therapy is dealt with in only 13 pages and the student will need to follow the recommendation for further reading especially as the information given in this section is confusing. For example, lincomycin and clindamycin are dealt with as though they are two quite different antibiotics. Moreover, the antibiograms in appendix 3 do not tally with the information in this section. It is unfortunate that the recommendation to read 'Antibiotic and chemotherapy' quotes an out-of-date edition published, incidentally, by the same firm.

The contributors to this volume (now increased by six to 17), the editors, and the publisher are to be congratulated on producing a very useful book which will undoubtedly be as successful as its predecessors. I hope in future editions, if the discovery of penicillin is to be mentioned, recognition may also be given to Florey and Chain as well as to 'Fleming, a Scot'.

E. JOAN STOKES

Glomerulonephritis. Morphology, Natural History, and Treatment Parts I and II Edited by Priscilla Kincaid-Smith T. H. Mathew, and E. Lovell Becker. (Pp. 1238; illustrated. £22.50.) London, New York, Sydney, Toronto: John Wiley and Sons, 1973.

This is the proceedings of a conference in Melbourne in 1972. After an attempt at classification of glomerulonephritis, several papers from different centres of the world are presented on each of some of the diagnoses, usually defined morbid anatomically; there is also brief discussion. Morbid anatomy, including immunofluorescence, dominates the argument; even in a 'long-term follow up of post-

streptococcal glomerulonephritis' the evidence for streptococcal involvement is not presented. The effect is remarkably repetitive, so that no one would want to read the whole, but this repetition must either mean a wide ranging international self deception, which we doubt, or an advancing field of objective knowledge, which should be useful sometime.

But there is self deception in many of the sections when treatment is discussed and little of the book is useful for treatment. Existing data on effects of treatment in steroid-sensitive nephrotic syndrome and in lupus nephritis are not presented, and many of the assertions of effects in other disease were shamed by the splendid natural history data in well worked-up patients from Cameron and his colleagues. It is clear that spontaneous full recovery or improvement is possible not only with acute nephritis and steroid-sensitive nephrotic syndrome, but with many other forms, including especially mesangial proliferative glomerulonephritis and Henoch Schönlein nephritis. Identification of the poor-prognosis patients is still very insecure, and apart from the two diseases shown to be treatable, dangerous immunosuppressive treatment should be given only with clear evidence of dangerous deterioration. Statistical analysis applied to inappropriate data by two Australian groups for alleged effects, one with retrospective control, and one simply demonstrating a change following treatment which was not necessarily an effect, is misleading pseudoscience, however many zeros there are in the P values. So the natural history aspect has been most valuable in avoiding dangerous treatment, but the therapeutic problems which result are not considered systematically. There was no concern with prevention.

Two new theoretically interesting fields are covered—the mechanism for complement activation in membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis (which is divided into two and given a new name)—and the role of IgA in renal disease. Both throw light on the alternate pathway of complement.

This book, then, provides a useful source for much fairly recent work in the field, but few would want to read it all and no one would want to buy it at this price, which is surely only partly justified by the many excellent illustrations. J. F. SOOTHILL

The Essentials of Forensic Medicine 3rd ed. By Cyril John Polson and D. J. Gee. (Pp. xvii + 729; illustrated. £12.00) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1973.

The first edition of 'Essentials of forensic medicine' was the bare essentials. The third edition is much larger, far from bare, and now must be regarded as the most authoritative, well researched, and useful textbook of forensic medicine available. It is divided into two parts: 'Forensic pathology' and 'Law relating to the practice of medicine'. Toxicology is not included.

This is a book for professionals by professionals and it is a great relief to be able to recommend a textbook of forensic medicine as heartily as one can recommend this. Anybody who decries the subject as non-academic should be made to read it. Every statement is justified by exact references carefully chosen from the world literature. The pictures all illustrate important and worthwhile points and the case,

histories, which are a feature of the book are all germane and interesting. The text is a model of elegant and cultured English and Professors Polson and Gee have good reason to be proud of their book. For the price of one Coroner's necropsy (with inquest) it is the best value for money I know.

A. C. HUNT

A Colour Atlas of Infectious Diseases By R. T. D. Emond. (Pp. 384; illustrated. £6.00.) London: Wolfe Medical Books. 1974.

Four hundred and fifty-six illustrations ranging from electronmicroscopy to the complete body. All excellent illustrations with useful and concise descriptions.

H. E. M. KAY

Association of Clinical Pathologists Symposium on 'Clinical Proteins'

This symposium will be held from Monday 28 October to Tuesday 29 October 1974 at Imperial College, London. The Chairman is Professor J. R. Hobbs.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Monday 28 October 1974

- 10.00 Assembly and Coffee
- 10.30–10.35 Chairman's remarks
- 10.35–11.20 Professor S. Cohen (Guy's)
- 11.20–12.05 Dr A. Askonas, FRS (MRC, Mill Hill)
- 12.05–12.50 Dr J. Davies (MRC)
- 12.50–14.00 Lunch
- 14.00–14.50 Professor C-B. Laurell (Malmo)

- 14.50–15.40 Dr R. Ritchie (Portland, Maine)

- 15.40–16.00 Tea
- 16.00–16.40 Professor A. M. Neville (Chester Beatty, London)
- 18.30 (for 19.00) Dinner

Tuesday 29 October 1974

- 9.10–9.50 Professor S. Salmon (Tucson, Arizona)
- 9.50–10.30 Professor J. R. Hobbs (Westminster)
- 10.30–10.50 Coffee
- 10.50–11.30 Professor E. C. Franklin (Rockefeller, N.Y.)

- 11.30–12.10 Professor M. Seligmann (Paris)
- 12.10–12.50 Dr J. Kohn (Queen Mary's, Roehampton)

- 12.50–14.00 Lunch
- 14.00–14.50 Professor J. F. Heremans (Brussels)

- 14.50–15.40 Dr P. Carter (Westminster)

- 15.40–16.20 Dr S. G. O. Johansson
- 16.20–16.35 Chairman's summing up
- 16.35 Tea

Information relating to the symposium can be obtained from Dr T. Hargreaves, Area Department of Pathology, Church Lane, Heavitree, Exeter, EX2 5AD.

Protein structure
Protein synthesis
Turnover studies

Rocket electrophoresis
and Two-dimensional
immuno-electrophoresis
Protein profiles derived
by automated immuno-
precipitation

Concepts of tumour specific
proteins

Myeloma
Monoclonal IgM

Gamma and μ chain
diseases
Alpha-chain disease
Benign paraproteinaemias

Immune deficiency syndromes
Variations of immunoglobulins in disease
IgE