students, those reading for higher examinations, and general physicians. Nor can it be faulted on pragmatic grounds for the haematologist, since its references are recent and the guides to therapy are up-to-date and succinct.

Its attraction lies in its pocket size, and a jaundiced eye must be cast on the inevitable increase in bulk, but the publishers have kept this to a minimum. The colour plate, of megaloblasts, contributes little to learning and is, perhaps, merely a tribute to the printer's versatility that could be dispensed with.

The only serious criticism of a book which is thoroughly to be recommended is the curious lack of comment on the role of the lymphocyte in immunology: the B lymphocyte is mentioned in passing in the discussion of chronic lymphatic leukaemia but more, surely, could have been made of the brief paragraph on lymphocyte function. A book that could be a good buy for not a few pathologists whose modesty forbids them to claim haematology as their special concern.

J. L. STAFFORD

The Liver: Normal and Abnormal Functions (in two parts) Part B. Edited by Frederick F. Becker. (Pages xvi + 575-1018; illustrated; \$37.50.) New York: Marcel Dekker. 1975.

This is volume 5 of a series of monographs entitled 'The Biochemistry of Disease: A Molecular Approach to Cell Pathology'. The prospective buyer should not be misled by this description. The book contains a series of review articles, mainly on growing points in hepatology, and its subject matter ranges from molecular biology, as in the chapter on carcinogenesis by the series editor Dr. Farber and his colleagues, to practical clinical considerations, as in the chapter on liver transplantation by Drs. Groth and Starzl. The book thus resembles *Progress in Liver Diseases* in its approach.

Material not easily found in other books includes a chapter on Protracted Obstructive Jaundice in Infancy by Dr. Landing and one on Worms by Dr. Warren. The first includes a complete discussion of the difficult problems and concepts of intrahepatic biliary atresia, and the second gives a lucid summary of human parasitic liver disease. Other chapters are on viral hepatitis, hepatitis B antigen, alcoholic injury, liver failure, alpha-fetoprotein, and childhood cirrhosis. Some, such as the chapter on cirrho-

sis, fail to give more than a superficial account.

Taken as a whole, the book is likely to be a useful addition to the library of hepatologists and of research workers entering the field. It is well produced, easy to read, and brief. Illustrations are few, references abundant. Part A, not reviewed here, deals with hepatic physiology, bilirubin, drug-induced liver disease, regeneration, antiproteases, and haemochromatosis.

P. J. SCHEUER

International Symposium on Gonorrhea. (Pp. 141; illustrated; no price given.) Ottawa: Health and Protection Branch, Health and Welfare Canada. 1975.

This booklet gives all but two of the papers read at a conference on gonorrhoea held in Ottawa in 1973 but not the discussions which followed them. Those on laboratory subjects include reviews of the use of serological tests in diagnosis, and on the possibility of developing preventive vaccines. Others present original work on the antigenic structure of surface membranes of gonococci, the application of tissue culture to studies on immunity, the genetic mechanisms underlying resistance to antibiotics, and the role of pili in the attachment of gonococci to tissue cells.

The worldwide resurgence of gonorrhoea has led to an intensification of work on the gonococcus. These papers by some leading workers provide a useful conspectus of some of the growing points of research in the field.

A. E. WILKINSON

Colour Atlas of Oral Histopathology. By E. A. Marsland and R. M. Browne. (Pp. 96; £15.00.) Aylesbury: HM + M Publishers. 1975.

As colour atlases go, this is a good one. There are 440, 8 × 5 cm colour prints, ranging from ground sections of tooth to sections of oral mucosa with pemphigus. There is about half an inch of text per photograph, and the text is largely descriptive. The standard of reproduction is good, being better than many and roughly equivalent in standard to the WHO *International Classification of Tumours*.

The book is said to be intended as a guide to dental students and as a reference collection for laboratory diagnostic practice. To the experienced histopathologist,

good quality black-and-white pictures, such as in the AFIP atlases of tumour pathology, are probably more informative than this type of colour atlas but, for the student, colour photographs may be more valuable.

It is always difficult to satisfy both students and postgraduates in one book, but this volume succeeds very well and will be useful to both general histopathologists, faced with the occasional dental and oral problem, and to candidates for the MRC Path examination.

A. C. HUNT

Advanced Medicine. Topics in Therapeutics. 1. Edited by A. M. Breckenridge. (Pp. x + 258; illustrated; £6.50.) Tunbridge Wells: Pitman Medical Books. 1975.

The proceedings of a symposium held in November 1974. The subjects discussed are those concerned with the drug 'explosion', drug overdosage, and changing patterns of therapeutic practice. A useful guide to the clinical pathologist who should keep up to date with the changing scene in therapeutics.

H. E. M. KAY

Gynaecological Pathology, 2nd edition. By Magnus Haines and Claude W. Taylor. (Pp. 552; 533 illustrations; £12.50.) Edinburgh, London and New York: Churchill Livingstone. 1975.

The second edition of this excellent book follows the same general pattern as the first with chapters devoted to each region of the female genital tract and to more general topics such as infections. Much of the text is identical with that of the first edition, but many references to recent work have been added. New material has been added in the sections on vulva-dystrophies, cervical metaplasia and carcino-ma *in situ*, uterine sarcomata, and the rarer ovarian tumours, and the diagnosis and management of trophoblastic disease. The effects of oral contraceptives on the endometrium and cervix are described. Throughout the book stress is laid on difficulties in diagnosis, with particular emphasis on benign conditions which may be wrongly diagnosed as malignant tumours.

Most of the photographs are retained from the previous edition but there are a few additions and replacements. All maintain a high standard and the fields are well chosen so that the condition can

usually be recognized without reference to the legend.

Long lists of useful references, including the full titles of the articles, are given after every chapter.

A. S. HILL

Ocular Pathology. A Text and Atlas. By Myron Yanoff and Ben S. Fine. (Pp. xiv + 762; illustrated; \$60.00.) Hagerstown, Maryland: Harper and Row. 1975.

Good textbooks on ocular pathology are very rare; indeed, there still exists a need for a major scholarly authoritative work, with an accurate historical bibliography, covering all aspects of this speciality; in short, a modern counterpart to the four volumes of Parsons' *Pathology of the Eye* (1904). Until this is forthcoming—and it would seem with the great advances in this field and in medical science in general that only multiple authorship could provide it—the subject is well served by the valuable Atlas and Textbook by Hogan and Zimmerman and now by this most impressive and beautifully produced volume by two well-known ocular pathologists. It is written in the form of tabulated notes which, although not attractive to read as a book, is of particular value for quick reference and for teaching. It is remarkable how ably the authors have condensed the most up-to-date knowledge of so many aspects of ocular pathology, including the complications of immunobiology, into such succinct and accurate summaries, all lavishly illustrated by excellent examples of the conditions described.

This fine book invites comparison with the French work *Anatomie Pathologique de l'Oeil et de ses Annexes* by G. Offret, P. Dhermy, A. Brini, and P. Bec, which provides a similarly up-to-date account of a comparably high standard. The French book, however, is written in essay form, concerns itself more with the pathogenesis of the conditions it describes, and pays more attention to the provision of original source references, whereas the book under review is more richly and better illustrated, often with electron micrographs, and is rather more comprehensive. It is undoubtedly the best textbook of descriptive pathology now available in the English language and can confidently be recommended to all those seeking knowledge in this branch of pathology whether for study, teaching or reference.

NORMAN ASHTON

1975 Review of the Year Book of Pathology and Clinical Pathology. Pathology. Edited by Frank A. Carone, **Clinical Pathology.** Edited by Rex B. Conn. (Pp. 558; illustrated; £13.75.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. 1975. Distributed in the United Kingdom by Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd, London.

The Year Book series is as old as the century, and its 75th birthday, celebrated by changing to a rich burgundy-coloured cover, is an occasion to review this essentially unreviewable anthology.

Just over 300 articles from the pathology journals of the English-writing world are presented as digests of 200-500 words, often with an illustration and always with a brief editorial comment. The latter usually mentions some other relevant articles on the subject. It is not a bad way to make a quick dip into any special branch of pathology and to find out what has been happening; not really a substitute for authoritative reviews, or for reading the primary journals, even if one seldom goes further than the summaries and titles, but a good 'long stop'. Personally, I enjoy the comments which add perspective and aid digestion. I also applaud the essay by one editor, Dr. R. B. Conn, on the discarding of useless tests, with particular reference to the NBT test.

The delay in publication is minimal; the 1975 edition published in July deals with the literature to September 1974; or so it is claimed, but, in fact, no paper from the *J. clin. Path.* is included after May 1974, thus omitting important papers, on gentamicin assay, for example. The production is good; the cost is no less than one has learned to expect.

H. E. M. KAY

Quality Control in Microbiology. Edited by James E. Prier, Josephine Bantola, and Herman Friedman. (Pp. x + 188; illustrated; £7.25.) London: University Park Press, Baltimore. 1975.

This is a collection of contributions to a symposium held in Philadelphia in November 1973. There are 14 contributors, three of them medical microbiologists.

Six of the contributors come from Government supported laboratories including CDC and ATCC; four of them have university or research appointments, two of them are from hospital departments, and two from commercial firms:

all are known for their work in the field of diagnostic medical microbiology.

There is an excellent contribution by Dr. R. C. Bartlett on 'Can we afford the price of quality?' and he also contributes useful appendices illustrating the method of monitoring in his own hospital department.

Contributions are inevitably uneven but all are well worth reading. That of Dr. Wright from the US Food and Drug Administration on antibiotic susceptibility discs tells how the Bauer-Kirby method was accepted as the standard test in the USA. This is not a popular method in Europe but the problems they encountered are of general interest.

The publishers claim that this book should be essential reading for all clinical microbiology personnel. In Britain, where the organization of laboratories is somewhat different, it will be of interest to directors of diagnostic laboratories and should be read by all those concerned with distribution of quality control material.

E. JOAN STOKES

Correction

In the paper 'Isolation of chlamydia from irradiated and non-irradiated McCoy cells' by L. Johnson and I. A. Harper (*J. clin. Path.*, 1975, **28**, 1003) there is an error in the third paragraph of the paper under the subheading 'tissue culture'; the last two lines should read:

'100 µg vancomycin, and 50 streptomycin per ml'.