Basic Concepts of Hemostasis and Thrombosis. Clinical and Laboratory Evaluation of Thrombohemorrhagic Phenomena. Eds G Murano and RL Bick. (Pp 292; illustrated; £51.25.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1980.

An unusual book with many simple and excellent tables, graphs, and charts, it includes information that is surprisingly up-to-date and beautifully set out; the authors and the publishers are to be congratulated. The book is divided into three sections: physiology and biochemistry of haemostasis, clinical disorders of haemostasis, and hypercoagulability, thrombosis, and therapy. The last two sections reflect the authors' bias: for example, there are only four pages on classical haemophilia, but nine on the alterations of haemostasis with malignancy! As the authors say in the preface that this is a book for general physicians 'often burdened with the awesome responsibility of diagnosing and treating thrombohaemorrhagic syndrome', the bias is possibly justified. A few details, such as monitoring of the anticoagulant therapy are incorrect, at least according to the usual British and European approach.

The price is prohibitive for individuals, but the book will be a useful and interesting addition to any library.

MILICA BROZOVIĆ

Prostate Cancer. UICC Technical Report Series Vol 48—A series of Workshops on the Biology of Human Cancer—Report No 9—Ed DS Coffey and JT Isaacs. (Pp 289; illustrated; Sw fr 20.) UICC, Geneva. 1979.

The first stated purpose of the workshop on which this report is based is to 'discuss the present status and future directions of research designed to develop new methods of controlling prostate cancer'. Clearly such a goal is impossible if the current role and possible future developments in surgery, pathology, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, immunology, tumour markers and other possible methods of prostate cancer detection, treatment, and staging are ignored. In the event the workshop concentrated on the role of hormones and steroid receptors in the development and control of prostate cancer. In addition, consideration was given to two of the potential model systems available, tissue/organ culture and animal models, but did not discuss xenografts. The general aim

of individual chapters was to review particular areas of research with respect to questions that are being, could be, and should be asked, with reference to the limitations of the techniques available. These criteria were achieved particularly well in the four chapters written by the editors, and in that discussing organ culture. Some of the other chapters were not equally objective, resulting in an inadequate analysis of the 'state of the art'. This criticism applies in particular to the chapter devoted to tissue culture, which concentrates on a cell line, EB33, which is contaminated with HeLa cells and therefore of dubious value in the study of prostate cancer.

Though the stated purpose of the report is not wholly achieved, its contents provide a valuable critical analysis of developments and future prospects in particular fields not available elsewhere and these are highly commended. The contribution made by the editors make this book a valuable addition to the literature on hormonal aspects of prostatic cancer.

RCB PUGH

Handbook of Emergency Toxicology. A guide for the identification, diagnosis and treatment of poisoning. 4th ed. Sidney Kaye. (Pp 565; illustrated; \$54.75.) Charles C Thomas. 1980.

This is no book for the clinician, at least not for the British clinician. A brave attempt is made to embrace toxicology by depicting virtually every conceivable poison, its action, and its cure. The result is an immense series of maybe succinct accounts covering each substance or group, with correspondingly unavoidable over-simplification. Attention to what is written may well deter the unenlightened physician from acting stupidly, but it will hardly offer him those details of clinical management that can be so critical. What is more, in parts it is not up to date; a defect of any hard-backed medical text.

On the other hand the laboratory sections which are of more attraction to clinical chemists are much more informative. The procedures described are sound, well-tryed, and invaluable. Let it not be thought, however, as the preface tends to imply that armed by a modicum of equipment and by following these directions, any clinical chemist can set up as a toxicological reference laboratory. 'One-off' tests of this sort can easily lead to unreliable results. Besides interpretation in practice is nothing like so clear-cut as

might be suggested. Still as an occasional reference to be taken down from the laboratory shelf, many analytical chemists in the hospital will find this very useful.

R GOULDING

1980 Year Book of Pathology and Clinical Pathology. Ed FA Carone and RB Conn. Year Book Medical Publishers Ltd. 1980.

Year books relieve one of guilt. The guilt of dropping journal subscriptions and for failing to scan 'Current Contents'. As usual the editors of this volume review a wide range of articles organised according to speciality with an equal split between pathology and clinical pathology. In the latter section between 20 to 30 papers are reviewed in each discipline, and within this framework most sub-specialities receive attention eg blood banking, histocompatibility testing, laboratory data processing, etc. The synopses of the selected papers are excellent some 300 to 400 words long and presented with illustrations and diagrams where necessary. Perhaps of equal value are the initialled editorial comments that follow each review. These may take the form of discussions as long again as the review or just be curt sentences eg 'This makes sense'. The style of comment provides an interesting insight into the individuals on the editorial panel. However even to attempt a choice of key articles from the oceans of annual literature in pathology is a task that might 'make no sense' to some. It is to the editors' credit that this choice in the subjects with which I am best acquainted was good although understandably limited.

AB PRICE

Essays on the History of the Microscope. GL'E Turner. (Pp 248; illustrated; £14.95.) Senecio Publishing Company Limited. 1980.

To the growing band of pathologists whose interest in the future, pensions apart, is diminishing, and whose interest in the past is correspondingly increasing, this book will have its attractions (cf RC Path. on 'Staffing Crisis in Pathology'). One man's papers on historical aspects of microscopy deliver a message of the development of the microscope as a scientific instrument, and its decline as an *objet d'art*. In the nineteenth century 'we bought British', with objectives devised by Lister, illustrious father of a famous son, and