tion of tobacco, cancer deaths which can be attributed to occupational factors form a relatively insignificant proportion of the overall cancer mortality. The erroneous concepts and misinterpretations of data which have purported otherwise are judiciously presented. Guidelines for future research and for more careful examination of epidemiological data are presented. Your reviewer, a non-specialist in this field, found the book enthralling and compulsive reading. It is highly commended to any who are in any way involved in or interested in cancer and its causes.

RNM MACSWEEN

Developments in Antibiotic Treatment of Respiratory Infections. New Perspectives in Clinical Microbiology No 4. Ed Ralph van Furth. (Pp 251; illustrated; Dfl. 90.00, US\$29.50.) Martinus Nijhoff Publishers. 1981.

Developments in Antibiotic Treatment of Respiratory Infections reports the proceedings of a conference held in June 1980 at which various European contributors surveyed the subject from a clinical, microbiological and therapeutic perspective. The book is divided into three sections. The first section dealing with the microbiological aspects looks at trends in the susceptibilities of *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Staphylococcus aureus*. A further paper examines the concept of colonisation resistance (CR) as it relates to the respiratory tract and presents information based on animal experiments that divides antimicrobial drugs according to their effect on CR. The second section on pharmacokinetics outlines and reviews the methodological difficulties in studying drug penetration of sputum, middle ear and sinuses. The final section discusses the clinical management of sinusitis, otitis and chronic bronchitis together with contributions on Legionnaires' disease, *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* infection and respiratory infections in the immunocompromised host. Three additional chapters look at antibiotic prescribing in relation to influenza outbreaks, general practice and paediatric prescribing in respiratory tract infections. Finally, the editor reviews the present position and future possibilities for prevention through vaccination.

This volume, like many conference proceedings, suffers from the selective perspective it provides. It is unlikely to bring about significant improvements in the antibiotic treatment of respiratory infections

although for the topics covered it certainly spells out the state of the art most thoroughly.

RG FINCH

Isozymes. Current Topics in Biological and Medical Research. Vol 5. Eds Mario C Rattazzi, John G Scandalios, and Gregory S Whitt. (Pp 230; illustrated; £24.60.) Alan R Liss Inc. 1981.

This is the fifth volume in a series which aims to cover all the fields of research in which isoenzyme studies are of interest. It is therefore to be expected that the number of reviews of direct relevance to chemical pathology and medicine will vary from volume to volume. However, the present volume includes two valuable and timely reviews of topics of medical interest: Human β -Galactosidases: Molecular and Clinical Aspects (LS Rittmann and JS O'Brien), and Resurgence of Fetal Isozymes in Cancer (F Schapira). Both provide valuable and up-to-date summaries of information which is not readily available elsewhere in a collected form.

Of the other reviews in this volume, that on RNA Polymerases in Neoplasia, (KM Rose, BW Duceman and SB Jacob) will undoubtedly be of interest to biochemists and others concerned with cancer research. The volume is completed by reviews on the Partitioning of Biochemical Pathways with Isozyme Systems (RA Jensen and GS Byng), Genetic Control, Developmental Expression and Biochemical Properties of Plant Peptidases (LO Vodkin and JG Scandalios), and Immunochemical Approaches to Studies of Isozyme Regulation in Higher Plants (J Daussant and A Skakoun). These chapters will appeal mainly to the isoenzyme specialist who will find them interesting and authoritative.

DW MOSS

Histological Typing of Tumours of the Eye and its Adnexa. LE Zimmerman and LH Sobin. (Pp 82 plus 150 colour figs; Sw fr 210; book only without colour figs Sw fr 60.) World Health Organisation. 1982.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide classifications, morphological descriptions, and illustrations of the most important tumours of the globe, optic nerve, orbit, eyelids, conjunctiva, and lacrimal system. Non-neoplastic lesions which have diagnostic relevance (eg phakomas and inflammatory disease) are also included. The book

will undoubtedly be of value in the general pathology laboratory and is essential for ophthalmic pathologists. The 150 colour illustrations are of a very high standard, although in general the magnifications are low and some of the figures could have been improved by high magnification inserts. The least impressive section is that on lymphoid hyperplasia and neoplasia, while the most valuable sections are concerned with classification of melanotic tumours of the globe and conjunctiva. The colour transparencies which are also available are invaluable for teaching purposes.

WR LEE

Clinical Biochemistry Reviews. Vol 3. Ed David M Goldberg. (Pp 477; illustrated; £31.20.) John Wiley & Sons Limited. 1982.

This volume attempts to cover 14 different subject areas, including laboratory management and instrumentation, biochemistry of pituitary and non-polypeptide hormones, biochemical investigations in gastrointestinal, renal and malignant disease, as well as toxicology and therapeutic drug monitoring. The reviews have been compiled in a variety of ways. Some have, literally, attempted to provide a "snapshot" summarising the important papers published in their subject area in a restricted period, centred on 1980. For instance, 561 papers on cancer are referred to in an article of approximately 15 000 words, and 418 papers in a somewhat shorter but equally wide-ranging review of biochemical aspects of genetic disease. Such reviews are, in my opinion, less balanced and helpful than those which concentrate on a few selected aspects, with literature coverage extending back over several years and some critical discussion, as in the case of the chapter on clinical enzymology.

The reference lists, which together occupy about 113 pages of the 464 pages of text, would have been much more helpful if they had included the titles of articles as well as both first and last pages, and a policy decision to adopt this system of quoting references in future volumes could have a major impact on the way in which the next reviews are written. Many potential readers might prefer to conduct their own MEDLARS search rather than depend upon this expensive book as a potential source of critical reviews. Nevertheless, on balance, I feel the book contains sufficient of value to be recommended for purchase.

LG WHITBY