Book reviews

of tumour markers in diagnosis. There is a good comprehensive index.

Overall, this book's principal use is as a source of background information, but it should also be of help to the surgical pathologist when faced with a diagnostic problem.

DC BROWN

Obstetrical and Gynaecological Pathology. Haines and Taylor. Ed. H Fox. Vols. 1 & 2. 3rd ed. (Pp 1331; £195.) Churchill Livingstone. 1987. ISBN 0-443-02405-7.

In revising this highly respected textbook the editor has purposely given full rein to the many distinguished contributors in developing their assigned topics. The outcome of this policy is a meticulously annotated and broadly based survey of obstetric and gynaecological pathology which would be hard to emulate. Apart from a comprehensive analysis of what might be regarded as the conventional aspects of the specialty there are well documented and informative sections on embryology, iatrogenic disease, placental pathology, and the pathological aspects of pregnancy. There is also a useful introduction to perinatal pathology. As one might expect, the quality of writing and illustrations shows some variability but is generally of a high order. The editorial policy, however, has some minor drawbacks. Inevitably there is some duplication, and in a rapidly developing field the somewhat over cautious view of immunohistochemistry is understandable; but there are quite numerous spelling errors and the occasional photomicrograph is transposed.

None the less no pathologist aspiring to a special interest in gynaecological pathology, and no major laboratory which has any pretence to providing a proper and updated service to clinicians, can afford to be without a reference book of this quality.

FD LEE

Pathology of the Head and Neck. Contemporary Issues in Surgical Pathology. Vol. 10. Ed. DR Gnepp. (Pp 680; £70.00.) Churchill Livingstone. 1988. ISBN 0-443-08495-5.

This is a selective review of recent advances in the pathology of the head and neck. At its

best, in the chapters on salivary lesions and thyroid disease new and controversial entities are authoritatively covered with good quality illustrations and current references. There is a rich diet of facts in the chapters on epidemiology and environmental pathology. Electron microscopy is given a refreshing problem orientated approach and the chapter on immunohistopathology gives useful differential diagnostic advice. The difficult topic of extranodal lymphoma is reviewed with some success but is confounded by an account of "midline malignant reticulosis" in a subsequent chapter. Other chapters are less successful. An account of fine needle aspiration cytology tries to be too comprehensive, being neither a bench book nor a bench mark. Overall, this text is well produced. It should be read by those who have an interest in head and neck disease and deserves a place in the library of any teaching centre.

AJ NORTON

Textbook of Uncommon Cancer. Ed. CJ Willis, JC Krikorian, MR Green, D Raghavan. (Pp 1064; £110.) John Wiley. 1988. ISBN 0-4719-0968-8.

The four editors of this remarkable new book have "set out to collect together comprehensive and critical reviews on many rare tumours". Over 90 contributors have supplied 54 sections, each discussing pathology, clinical features, investigations, and management. Full bibliographies are included. The result is a monumental piece of practical scholarship. The size and scope of the text must defeat any detailed appraisal by one reviewer; but from the point of view of the histopathologist I found it of outstanding value both as a book to dip into and to use for specific problems encountered in the diagnostic service of a cancer hospital. It is probably invidious to pick out individual sections but I particularly enjoyed those dealing with mediastinal, ano-rectal and CNS tumours, and the chapters discussing malignant schwannomas, peripheral neuroepitheliomas, and Paget's disease of the breast. The editors themselves note that uncommon tumours of the lymphohaematopoietic system and some paediatric cancers have been omitted, and these should certainly be included in the next edition. Of course one can find odd points to criticise; a few of the pictures are smeary, some lack magnifications, and there are assorted typographical errors, but the overriding

impression is that this book is of major importance and an outstanding addition to the current literature on cancer.

RL CARTER

Quality Control and Assurance in Clinical Laboratories: Three Years On. Ed. AD Farr. (Pp 220; soft cover £8.) Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences, 12 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 0AU. 1988. ISBN 0-9506242-2-5.

There is no doubt that to have the proceedings of a meeting which took place in September 1987 ready for publication in the following April is a considerable achievement. Moreover, by selecting the papers the editor has been able to create a sense of continuity and organisation which go some way to make this feel more like a book than a simple record. Of course the sometimes rhetorical approach reflects the fact that these were all presentations directed at a live MLSSO audience. Nevertheless, there is a heartening measure of sound common sense and seriousness of purpose evident here. Quality control and assurance are one of the means by which the laboratory itself is directed and controlled and anyone interested in exercising this would do well to take the matter seriously.

IAJ CAVILL

Modern Trends in Human Leukemia VII. New Results in Clinical and Biological Research including Pediatric Oncology, Haematology and Blood Transfusion. Vol. 31. Eds. R Neth, RC Gallo, MF Greaves, H Kabisch. (Pp 526; soft cover DM 248.) Springer. 1987. ISBN 3-540-17754-X.

This volume contains all the material presented at the Seventh Wilsede Meeting which took place in June 1986. It is a collection of over 100 short papers from a wide variety of groups working predominantly in West Europe and America. They are collected under the headings of leukaemia diagnosis and therapy, cell biology, immunology, and virology. As all the papers present recent research of the numerous groups, many overlap, and this volume must be considered very much a reference work to be dipped into to obtain material which was highly topical in 1986, and which two years later can be better placed in perspective. There are also included the excellent review lectures from the meeting from zur Hassen on tumour

viruses, Metcalf on growth factors, and Gallo on the origin of leukaemia.

In an ideal world all leukaemologists could and would go to the Wilsede meeting personally. As an acceptable substitute their reference library may consider obtaining this transcript of the proceedings on the understanding that the presumably unavoidable delay in publication makes the contents the state of yesterday's art, not today's.

IM HANN

Laboratory Handbook of Neuroimmunologic Disease. B Barna, R Valenzuela, S Chou, H Goren, MK Gupta. (Pp 144; \$52.) Raven Press. 1988. ISBN 0-89189-220-6

This is quite a short book about the immunological aspects of those neurological diseases in which immune mechanisms are thought to play a part. Its stated purpose is to provide an insight into the use and interpretation of laboratory tests in these conditions and the instruction of laboratory staff.

It is easy to read with good clear diagrams, but it gives the rather restricted outlook of a neuropathologist with an interest in immunology—rather than that of an immunologist in the field of neurology. There are some oversimplifications and minor errors and omissions in the first chapter on basic immunology. These are carried over into the third chapter on the clinical aspects of neurologic diseases. The criteria for "autoimmune inner ear disease" seem very sketchy, and the inclusion of a condition called "Cogan's syndrome" in this list is on the basis of some abnormal *in vitro* lymphocyte tests.

The chapter on histopathology is more firmly based and factual, as are the last two chapters on laboratory tests in the CSF and blood respectively. These give clear instructions on a few limited test methods, and are by no means comprehensive.

The problem of this book is that it lacks a sound sense of purpose. The more general concepts of the application of immunology to disease are not well covered. Perhaps this is a reflection of the state of the art in neuroimmunology. Hard data are available only for a relatively few neurological disorders.

The book may well find a place in specialised neuropathology laboratories, but is not recommended for the clinical immunologist with a wider interest, or for the more general reader who wishes to gain an insight into neuroimmunology.

RA THOMPSON

Human Plasma Proteins. Their Investigation in Pathological Conditions 2nd ed. (Pp 439; £55.) John Wiley. 1987. ISBN 0-471-91587-4.

The second edition of *Human Plasma Proteins* is not only an update of the subject since 1979, but this time also includes the investigation of clotting disorders. Additional methodological procedures are to be found in the appendix such as acrylamide gel electrophoresis, and the measurement of acetyl cholinesterase in amniotic fluid, together with a section of quality control. Each chapter has over 100 references which enables the reader to follow up most topics without having to do a literature search. This book should be on the shelf in the protein section of all laboratories and, for those with a particular interest in the subject, a personal copy is recommended.

BRENDA SLAVIN

Practical Blood Transfusion. 4th ed. DW Huestis, JR Bove, J Case. (Pp 424; £33.) Churchill Livingstone. 1988. ISBN 0-943432-62-6

Practical Blood Transfusion is, as the authors state in their preface, intended as a practical book addressed both to physicians as well as to technical personnel. It spans nearly 400 pages, the first 200 covering transfusion centre or laboratory aspects—blood donation, immunology, blood groups, donation testing and pre-transfusion testing. These chapters are as the authors have intended; practical yet readable by both clinical and laboratory personnel alike.

The remainder of the book addresses more clinical aspects, such as use of red cells, transfusion complications, blood components, haemolytic disease of the newborn, and haemapheresis. The coverage in this section appeared uneven and was at times disappointingly sketchy. Although issues such as transfusion in cardiac surgery or transfusion of the haemoglobinopathies are dealt with, they are discussed rather superficially, and clinicians requiring critical guidance on practical management issues may find that lacking. At other times, advice given seems vague or unusual. Under the heading "Massive Transfusion" do the authors really suggest that Rh negative patients who are, during emergencies, given Rh positive blood, be given Rh immunoglobulin? The authors refer to the use of FFP in burned patients and

the lack of evidence for its efficacy but suggest that it should be provided after due consultation. Whilst this might be a pragmatic approach, some discussion as to why there is such a widespread faith in the use of FFP and why such beliefs could be misplaced, could have been helpful to enable meaningful discussions to take place between clinicians and their transfusion counterparts. It is stated that red cells for newborn infants should be selected or processed in such a way that will reduce CMV infection. Does this apply to all infants irrespective of prematurity or maternal CMV serological status? More could be said about the compatibility selection in the section on "Transfusion for newborn infants" than to mention that crossmatch procedures should minimise the need for sampling from the infant. The issue of uncrossmatched blood during massive transfusions is addressed—the need for obtaining a pre-transfusion sample could have been emphasised; also the value of confirming donor ABO group or its compatibility with the recipient by an immediate spin procedure.

The section on blood components includes the use of immunoglobulins. Intravenous immunoglobulins are said, surprisingly, to carry a risk of non-A non-B hepatitis; this on the basis of one reference to a non-standard method of preparation. Intravenous immunoglobulins are used increasingly and expensively for the management of idiopathic thrombocytopenia. Some critical discussion of this would not be misplaced. The authors seem unaware that frozen red cells are no longer regarded as the preferred method for providing leucocyte depleted red cells, having been overtaken in economy and convenience by a variety of highly efficient leucocyte filter systems, techniques referred to in the publication to which they make reference.

In conclusion, I feel that this book will prove of more value to those with laboratory interest than to physicians seeking help with current clinical issues.

JAF NAPIER

Handbook of Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy Cytology. 2nd ed. TS Kline. (Pp 492; £70.) Churchill Livingstone. 1988. ISBN 0-443-08466-1.

This is a readable book giving sound guidance through the practice and philosophy of fine needle aspiration cytology, and covering all sites imaginable, and some