The Spleen. Structure, Function and Clinical Significance. Ed AJ Bowdler. (Pp 515; £80.) Chapman & Hall. 1990. ISBN 0-412-29120-7.

This scholarly text represents one of the best attempts to date to explore Galen's "organ of mystery". The introductory chapters are devoted to the comparative anatomy and physiology of the spleen, together with an overview of its immunology. The central section of the book is devoted to pathology and the concluding chapters to clinical aspects. This last section provides a most comprehensive overview of the spleen in disease from the clinician's standpoint. It is in the middle third that as a histopathologist I feel disappointed. The range of reactive disorders is poorly illustrated and their descriptions cursory. Coverage of neoplasms and especially the lymphomas is similarly brief. This tends to make the central section unworkable as a diagnostic text, which is a pity as the only competitor is the rather poor "Major Problems in Pathology" series *Disorders of the spleen*. Undoubtedly this book ranks as a very useful addition to the general medical literature providing insight into the role of the spleen in disease—meanwhile I eagerly await the arrival of a definitive textbook on splenic histopathology.

AJ NORTON

Bone Tumors. Diagnosis, Treatment, and Prognosis. 2nd ed. AG Huvos. (Pp 784; \$125.) WB Saunders Company. 1991. ISBN 0-7216-2050-7

It is a long time, too long, since the first edition of this book appeared. True to its name the book discusses most aspects of bone tumours from a histopathologist's perspective.

The contents are divided into sections, predominantly on the basis of the matrix synthesised by the neoplasms. Thus there are sections on tumours of fibrous connective tissue origin, etc. The big two—tumours forming bone and tumours forming cartilage—each occupy two sections—benign and malignant. This sectional approach, while laudable, has led to some unusual, one might say, controversial, inclusions such as Ewing's sarcoma under "tumours of histiocytic or fibrohistiocytic origin".

Overall, the book is good, it is well written, contains a great deal of information, but at the same time is succinct and is very well referenced. It is also relatively cheap (at least while the pound/dollar exchange rate holds at its present level) at £74 (\$125.00). There are, however, two criticisms. First the photographic reproduction, particularly of high contrast subjects, is very variable. Second, perhaps understandably, the book is not completely up to date. The largest single omission is primitive neuroectodermal tumour of bone, which after much searching I could only find mentioned in a table.

These relatively minor faults aside this is a useful book and one which should be considered by any pathologist looking for a treatise on bone tumours.

AJ FREEMONT

Cardiovascular Pathology. Vol 23 in the series, **Major Problems in Pathology.** R Virmani, JB Atkinson, JJ Fenoglio. (Pp 465; £38.) WB Saunders Company. 1991. ISBN 0-7216-3232-7.

Four key areas have been appropriately selected in this volume. The first deals with ischaemic heart disease and myocardial infarction, discussing clinicopathological and experimental coronary arterial lesions, biochemical aspects, and ventricular arrhythmias. Percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty, sudden death, the athlete heart and coronary vasculitis receive separate attention.

The second and third areas review myocardial biopsy examination, including a comprehensive account of diagnostic conditions and a comprehensive description of the three major forms of cardiomyopathies. Another chapter deals with rejection of the heart and heart-lung transplantation.

The final selected area reviews valvular pathology including native disease, mechanical- and bio-prostheses. Separate chapters deal with mitral valve prolapse and endocarditis.

The book also addresses fundamental issues, such as interrelationship between the heart and clinician/pathologist.

The chapters of the book to which 28 experts, almost exclusively from North America, have contributed, is well written, amply illustrated and provided with comprehensive lists of references. This volume is full of useful, current information and will be of immense value to everyone concerned with the study of the heart. I can unreservedly recommend it.

EGJ OLSEN

Manual of Basic Neuropathology. 3rd ed. J Poirier, F Gray, R Escourrolle. Translated by Lucien J Rubinstein. (Pp 276; soft cover £17.) WB Saunders Co. 1990. ISBN 0-7216-3464-8.

This is the third edition of the original *Manual of Basic Neuropathology*, with the addition of a new coauthor, following the death of Raymond Escourrolle. The book has been translated into English from French, like the previous editions, by the late Lucien Rubinstein, and the book is dedicated to him.

Eleven chapters cover the main topics in neuropathology, with an appendix on techniques. Although large sections of the original remain, maintaining the format and style, the book has been extensively updated. The book tries to put an emphasis on clinicopathological correlation and on pathogenesis, and many sections have been expanded to incorporate recent advances that have increased the understanding of aspects of neuropathology. The authors succeed in putting a lot of information into the slim volume, and new material includes accounts of ischaemic disorders of white matter, lacunae, and diffuse axonal injury, and there is a well revised chapter on neuromuscular disorders. The chapter on infection reflects the changing picture with an emphasis on viral disorders including an account of the neuropathology of AIDS.

Minor quibbles include the transposition of the legends of figures 19 and 20 and a few poorly reproduced macro- and micro-photographs. The authors only mention removal of the spinal cord from the posterior approach but this probably reflects their own practice, and it is perhaps for historical reasons that celloidin embedding is still included.

This reviewer found the earlier edition useful as a junior pathologist. This volume should also make, as the authors intend, a good basic introduction to neuropathology.

M HONOVAS

Atlas of Fungal Pathology. K Salfelder. **Current Histopathology.** Vol 17. (Pp 200; £80.) Kluwer Academic Publishers Group. 1990. ISBN 0-7923-8932-2.

This atlas summarises Professor Salfelder's life-long professional interest in mycotic infections, studied mostly in Venezuela. The mycoses are described systematically, with mycology, clinical and epidemiological features, gross and microscopic pathology receiving roughly equal attention. Curiously, AIDS gets only a passing mention, considering that it is rewriting the geographical pathology of fungal infections.

Nearly all the photographs are in colour. The histopathology photomicrographs are mostly very good, showing fungal detail and the ranges of host reaction well. The algae and actinomycetes are also included. Histopathological differential diagnosis from alternative infections and from artefacts receives suitable attention. A useful glossary and descriptive chapter on fungal structures complete the text.

The rival to this book is the *Atlas of the histopathology of mycotic diseases* by Chandler *et al* (Wolfe publications), a softcover reissue of the 1980 edition without any text changes. The histopathology pictures in Chandler *et al* are better than in this one, but it does not have the clinical and gross specimen illustrations. I am glad that I have got both.

SB LUCAS

Skin Langerhans' (Dendritic) Cells in Virus Infections and AIDS. Developments in Medical Virology. Ed. Y Becker. (Pp 320; £71.50.) Kluwer Academic Publishers Group. 1991. ISBN 0-7923-1015-2

This is a very odd book: it seems to be the seventh in a series under the general title of *Developments in Medical Virology*. The various chapters have been photographically reproduced directly from the manuscripts, and consequently many chapters have different typefaces. The photomicrographs are better than is usual with this type of technique, although still less clear than they could be, but the graphs and tables are very variable in appearance. Although the introductory chapter is a true review of an area, the rest are straightforward research reports which should be appearing in a journal subjected to peer review, correspondence, and discussion, which is not possible in this format. This is not to say that the contents are without merit; many of the chapters contain information of great interest, but there is no opportunity for criticism to be published except in another journal. It is also difficult to see how the papers were collected: were they solicited