

mumps synovitis occur without orchitis; and what is the relevance and relative value of some of the newer tests for rheumatoid factors? Like all reference books it seems to skate thinly over ground with which I am familiar, and it was most useful for subjects about which I needed rapid recourse to the basic facts. For those dealing with rheumatological problems it will remain a superb reference book.

D SCOTT

Tumors of the Thyroid Gland. Supplement. Fascicle 4, Second Series. Atlas of Tumor Pathology. Second Series. WA Meissner. (Pp 41; \$4.50.) US Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. 1984.

This supplement, published in 1984, summarises advances in thyroid histopathology and the epidemiology of thyroid carcinoma that have been published since the appearance in 1969 of Meissner and Warren's fascicle on Tumors of the Thyroid Gland. Dr Meissner has covered numerous aspects that include the normal thyroid and tumour like lesions, as well as benign and malignant tumours. One major advance detailed has been the recognition of the many different histological appearances of medullary carcinoma recognised by immunoreactivity of the component cells with anticalcitonin. Dr Meissner has managed to convey a considerable amount of information in a most readable manner, combined with tables, photomicrographs, and about 150 pertinent references. The supplement is an essential addition to the library of every histopathology department. In fact, it may be regarded as a slim textbook that stands on its own.

I DONIACH

Current Issues in Toxicology. Sponsored by the International Life Sciences Institute. Ed HC Grice. (Pp 197; 52 DM.) Springer. 1984.

That we all fear cancer and that many chemicals are carcinogens are platitudes. The continued development of mankind, however, depends on the proper use of chemicals in medicines, in food, and at work, so there is a considerable need to test natural and synthetic materials for their carcinogenic potential and to show how they may safely be used.

The first section of this book discusses aspects of carcinogenicity testing done to meet the regulatory requirements that are supposed to protect us. It successfully describes the nature of the procedures used and the many biological factors that affect the results. The analysis and illustration of the difficulties encountered in attempting to apply animal data to man is rather less adequate and more mundane, although the worst arithmetical absurdities of American governmental calculomania have been avoided.

The second section is a limited account of genetic toxicology, more descriptive than analytical, and biased towards regulatory fashion rather than scientific principles.

Overall, the contents would be useful to someone wishing to read about current practices, and the references are a fair guide to more comprehensive sources, but the titles promise more than the text delivers.

AD DAYAN

Histochemistry. Theoretical and Applied. Vol 2. 4th ed. Analytical Technology. AGE Pearse. (Pp 624; 64 colour illustrations; £75.) Churchill Livingstone. 1985.

This second volume of what is ultimately intended to be a three volume edition of a classic text is likely to be of particular interest to histopathologists as it deals with the identification and staining of structural components, many of the methods evolving from "special stains." It comprises nine chapters covering proteins, peptides, and aminoacids; applied histochemistry of simple and glycosylated proteins; nucleic acids and nucleoproteins; carbohydrates and mucosubstances, with a separate section devoted to affinity cytochemistry; lipids, lipoproteins, and proteolipids; aldehydes and ketones; pigments and their precursors; biogenic amines, and, finally, inorganic constituents and foreign substances.

The text is copiously illustrated but this is marred by unfortunate transpositions or inversions of either legends or illustrations. The format of two columns makes for easier reading than previous editions, but the practical appendices are now in "mini" type. This, together with the price, means that it is likely to be used largely as a reference text.

LUCILLE BITENSKY

Histochemistry in Pathology. Ed M Isabella Filipe and Brian D Lake. (Pp 349; £39.) Churchill Livingstone. 1983.

This book is edited by two of the leading exponents in Britain of the application of histochemistry to diagnostic histopathology. It is a collection of articles of various length written mainly by pathologists from almost all over the world. Some are introductory texts, like the first three dealing with the principles of fixation (Hopwood), substances identified by histochemical methods (Stoward), and the value of immunohistochemistry in diagnosis (Hoborn). Others deal with particular topics ranging widely over the body organs and tissues. Thus there are three papers on the central nervous system, three on the gastrointestinal tract, two on the liver, and two separate papers dealing with the cardiovascular system, skin, skeletal muscle, etc. Nine of the papers deal with tumours of various types.

The Editors state that the book is aimed at the pathologist and that they hope it may persuade pathologists to adopt histochemistry as an integral part of histopathology. Certainly, this book has collected information on which pathologists could base such a decision.

LUCILLE BITENSKY

Correction

On page 905 of the August issue the formula should read:

$$T^2 \leq \frac{(N_1 + N_2 - 2)p}{N_1 + N_2 - p - 1} F_{\alpha; p, N_1 + N_2 - p - 1}$$