

*Book reviews*

cuss in detail the equipment needed to produce an image analysis system and describe examples currently in use in America. Such hardware is capable of analysing very complex biology structures, but is very expensive. The remaining articles illustrate the application of this equipment to pathological and cytological problems, including the objective assessment of cervical carcinoma, renal radiation injury, muscle biopsy analysis, and the detection of bladder cancer from the cells of voided urine. One article discusses the comparison of different types of anaemia with normal red blood cells using unstained blood films. Several articles document the difficulties encountered in the preparation of material for computerised microscopy and the problems resulting from digitisation.

This is a well produced, useful volume, but it is very similar in both format and content to another recent book from this publisher.

C SOWTER

**Monoclonal Antibodies: Principles and Practice.** James W Goding. (Pp 276; \$22.50.) Academic Press. 1984.

It is now a decade since Köhler and Milstein's classic paper which led to the development of monoclonal antibody technology. Hybridoma techniques have now advanced from the research laboratory and are used across a wide range of scientific disciplines and are obviously in widespread diagnostic and therapeutic use. At the same time there has been a bourgeon of text books on this subject — one might ask if a further addition to the literature is justified? However, the well established stable of the Hall Institute has again provided a good blend of both the theoretical and practical aspects of the subject resulting in a book which will find equal place in the routine and research laboratory. To highlight a few useful techniques described in the book: biotinylation of antibodies, use of monoclonals in molecular cloning (surely an area of development for the future), and raising of monospecific polyclonal antibodies (!). However it is a pity that immunoenzyme methods in histology are not covered — maybe this will be included in later editions. Moderately priced, I would recommend purchase of this useful text.

MA HORTON

**Autoimmunity: Basic Concepts; Systemic and Selected Organ-Specific Diseases.** Concepts in Immunopathology. Vol 1. Eds JM Cruse and RE Lewis. (Pp 361; Sw fr 198; US \$118.75.) Karger. 1985.

This is the first volume in a new series designed to keep the scientific community abreast of recent advances in basic biological and clinical aspects of immunological disorders. The objective is largely achieved with excellent chapters on the regulation of the immune response by suppressor cells, natural killer cells and the idiotypic network, and the ways in which some of these can be modified to prevent (or even reverse) the lesions of experimental allergic encephalo-myelitis, thyroiditis, and other autoimmune diseases in animals. There is also an interesting account of the diverse immunological disturbances which lead to systemic lupus erythematosus in different strains of mice. Perhaps not surprisingly the sections on autoimmunity in rheumatoid arthritis and clinical disorders of the blood and skin are something of a hotch-potch. Not an easy book to read but worthwhile for those wishing to come to grips with a difficult developing subject.

RB GOUDIE

**Organ Based Autoimmune Diseases.** Concepts in Immunopathology. Vol 2. Eds JM Cruse and RE Lewis. (Pp 278; Sw fr 149; US \$89.25.) Karger. 1985.

This is a sequel to the recently published volume "Basic Concepts; Systemic and Selected Organ-specific Diseases". There are interesting reviews of autoimmunity in endocrine disease, insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, myasthenia gravis, encephalomyelitis, and tubular and glomerulo-nephritis. Other chapters dealing with the cellular immunology of multiple sclerosis, autoimmune aspects of human reproduction, and autoimmune reactions in the eye are adequate and informative though less dynamic in their approach. Much of the account of sperm antibodies, for example, consists of a catalogue of techniques which may be used for diagnostic purposes and the clinical interpretation of results with little reference to their role in the pathogenesis of male or female infertility. Three chapters by different authors deal with diabetes mellitus and present somewhat different views of the subject so there is inevitably considerable repetition. Those who are interested

in autoimmunity in general and that affecting pancreas and nervous system should certainly read this book.

RB GOUDIE

**Lecture Notes on Forensic Medicine.** 4th ed. DJ Gee. (Pp 231; paperback £8.50.) Blackwells. 1984.

This is a good condensed account of the essentials of Legal Medicine. The padding and repetition inherent in standard textbooks has been most successfully removed without making the resultant concentrate too dry and inedible. It is presented in such a way that the facts stick in the mind. It is ideal reading for undergraduate students and general practitioners would do well to keep it on a shelf in the surgery.

The ethical features such as consent are well dealt with. Confidentiality, also well done, is very important, and new situations are constantly arising. Most of the pitfalls that may confront a young doctor are explained. Other good features include the interpretation of blood splashes at the scene of a crime, the bodily changes occurring after death, firearms, and accidental poisoning. It is a good idea to include the names and addresses of the main Poisons Centres in the country. The section on toxicology is slightly out of date with respect to the current common suicidal poisons, but the fashion in suicide changes so rapidly these days that it is practically impossible for any book to keep abreast of the latest innovations.

R CROMPTON

**Pathology of the Esophagus.** Horatio Enteline and John Thompson. (Pp 192; DM 136; US \$50.80.) Springer. 1984.

This book opens with a scholarly account of the embryology, structure, and function of the normal oesophagus endorsed with the stamp of personal experience. Schatzki rings, other mucosal and muscular rings, webs, diverticula, atresia, fistula, cysts, and hernias are described in meticulous detail and the pathophysiology of functional disorders such as achalasia, diffuse spasm, systemic sclerosis, diabetes etc, enriches the text. Adenocarcinoma as a complication of Barrett's oesophagus is relatively rare varying from 2-4% of cases of oesophageal carcinoma but it is suggested that if one considers adenocarcinoma of the lower oesophagus and gastro-oesophageal junc-



# Lecture Notes on Forensic Medicine

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*J Clin Pathol* 1985 38: 719

doi: 10.1136/jcp.38.6.719-d

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