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The other major section is that dealing with the urinary sediment in the differential diagnosis of renal failure. This is again very well done but tends to be influenced by the authors' personal experience. This is inevitable as there have been extremely few carefully controlled blind trials for examining the urinary sediment in relation to different nephrological diseases. While their comments on changing appearances in the urinary sediment in the progression of glomerular disease may indeed be true, the reader must be a little cautious in accepting their observations as "absolute". Similarly their observations on the diagnosis of acute renal failure due to nephrotoxins or ischaemic injury on the basis of excretion of epithelial cells, whether free or in casts, may be challenged by some, as in clinical practice such easy distinction is rarely made. Again, however, this may be a function of the care and attention given to examination of the urinary sediment.

Overall, I think this is an excellent and comprehensive atlas focusing yet again on the enormous importance of careful examination of the urinary sediment.

WR CATTELL

granulomatous inflammation in the liver and intestines (with numerous references) and the editor's own chapter on coeliac disease in which he reviews, in typical idiosyncratic fashion, his studies on intra-epithelial lymphocytes. The book has, however, a few flaws. The chapter on malnutrition and intestinal immunity is poorly referenced. The chapter by Isaacson on the association between coeliac disease and malignant lymphoma is out of date; at the very least an addendum to this chapter describing the author's own studies published last year showing that malignant histiocytosis of the intestine is a T cell tumour should have been included. These, however, are relatively minor complaints and I would recommend the book to anyone interested in gut immunology.

TT MACDONALD

Cardiac Muscle. Handbook of Microscopic Anatomy Vol 2, part 7. ED Canale, GR Campbell, JJ Smolich, JH Campbell. (Pp 318; DM 460.) Springer. 1986. ISBN 3-540-16379-4.

An immense number of excellent contributions on various aspects of basic heart muscle research have been collated in this compact, eminently readable volume. The content is not confined to the learned reader. In the introduction, the mammalian heart is described in simple terms, and gradually leads to the most detailed and comprehensive description of structural detail without losing continuity. The book is subdivided into seven other major sections including morphology of the working myocyte, morphometry, the conduction system, innervation, development of cardiac muscle and the conduction system, as well as hypertrophy. Each section is appropriately subdivided into the different components that constitute a particular part of the heart including species differences. Controversial topics such as the internodal pathways are discussed and brought to a logical conclusion on the evidence that exists. The book contains 101 illustrations of the highest technical standard, and the subject is comprehensively reviewed.

I can unreservedly recommend this publication to serious workers engaged in the study of heart muscle, be they at the beginning of their career or the height of their fame.

EGJ OLSEN

Immunopathology of the Small Intestine. Ed MN Marsh. (Pp 461; £45.) John Wiley. 1986. ISBN 0-471-90706-5.

Mucosal immunology is a rapidly moving subspecialty. The increase in interest in this area is reflected by the publication in the past few years of a number of text books, the latest of which has been edited by Michael Marsh from the University of Manchester. The book contains 16 chapters, written by well known investigators in the area, and is divided into four main parts which cover the control of mucosal integrity, immunopathology of mucosal infection, models of immune mediated intestinal damage, and immunopathology of food associated intestinal damage. The book is well edited with little repetition of the same information in different chapters. There are relatively few typographical errors and the figures and tables are of good quality. As befits the title the emphasis is on the immunopathology of intestinal disease. This is appropriate because most of the information on human gut disease is in fact based on pathologic studies. I applaud the editor for his decision to omit the usual obligatory chapter on inflammatory bowel disease. I particularly enjoyed the chapter by Weinstock on the immunoregulation of

Notices

Joint Royal College of Surgeons/Imperial Cancer Research Fund Histopathology Unit

As part of this unit, which has been established for the purpose of advancing the science of diagnostic histopathology, a panel of experienced histopathologists provides advice on diagnostic problems to any pathologist seeking a second opinion. Material can be sent as wet tissue, fixed tissue, paraffin blocks, or sections. If stained sections are submitted additional unstained sections should be sent whenever possible. Where blocks are sent, they will be returned in due course when the sender indicates that this is necessary. Special arrangements can be made, where possible, for the examination of frozen sections or material requiring electron microscopy. There is no charge for these services.

The Panel is now in its third year and has dealt with an average of between four and five cases per week. These have come from more than 50 different hospitals in the United Kingdom and from 10 different countries. The membership of the panel at present includes: Professor NFC Gowing, Professor DH Mackenzie, Dr BC Morson, Dr RCB Pugh, Professor H Spencer, Dr AG Stansfeld, Professor AC Thackray and Dr KAD Turk. The work of the panel is being coordinated by Professor B Cohen from whom request forms can be obtained and to whom enquiries can be addressed at: the Histopathology Unit, 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PN (01-242 0200).

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