paper chromatography are well covered but chemiluminescence and flow injection analysis, for example, are omitted. It would also be possible to read this book without realising the impact of microprocessors on laboratories. A chapter is badly needed on computers and peripherals to cover such topics as the principles of the microprocessor, interfaces, IEEE standards, and so on. As a basic introduction for laboratory staff this book is highly recommended despite its limitations. Whether it is affordable by junior staff is another matter.

J M RATTENBURY


The WHO Technical Report Series makes available the findings of various international groups of experts on a broad range of topics. This report reviews the present state of synthetic antigens in the serological diagnosis of infectious disease and assesses their relative advantages and limitations compared with natural epitopes. It begins with an account of progress in peptide synthesis and recombinant DNA technology for production of antigens and procedures for identification of antigenic determinants. There follows reports on T cell diagnostic assays, the potential of synthetic reagents in the diagnosis of a variety of virus infections, and of research to improve the diagnosis and monitoring of progress in HIV infections and some bacterial and parasitic diseases. It ends with a few general conclusions and recommendations.

This easily read report is full of facts and relevant observations which will be of most use to researchers in assessing current progress, as a source of ideas, and as an indicator of the direction of future work, but many microbiologists will find it fascinating.

RN PEEB


Published in a series entitled Cancer Treatment and Research this book presents 18 chapters on a variety of aspects of lung cancer by an international cast from 12 countries. It is a tribute to the skills of the editor that despite the varying background of the contributors the book is well written and easy to follow. Much of the content is related to treatment and therefore presumably aimed primarily at clinicians, but there are three chapters on pathology and others on the pathobiology of lung tumours which may well be of interest to pathologists.

Mackay (Texas) describes results from techniques such as cytopathology, immunocytochemistry, and electron microscopy, and the implications of the results for the classification of lung tumours. A group from Hong Kong have studied observer variability in the application of the WHO classification and highlight the problems of comparisons of incidence and treatment among different centres. A Japanese group describe a range of immunological tests and admit that although these are useful for both routine diagnosis and study of tumour biology they have not yet achieved their aims of distinguishing tumour from those of low metastatic potential, and finding markers for responsiveness to treatment. There is also a chapter on oncogenes which includes useful references for those whose basic medical and pathology education occurred in the pre-oncogene era.

A book which aims to relate the current knowledge of the pathobiology of tumours and the current understanding of treatment techniques is obviously laudable. I fear that this text will be too specialised and clinically orientated for the general histopathologist, but it would be useful for those with a special interest in lung pathology and particularly for clinical oncologists in this field.

J CROW


This atlas is a reprint of the highly successful original published in 1980 due, presumably, to continuing demand but it has not been revised or updated. The text is brief but it is adequate and clear, with useful tables. The references date from the 1960s and 1970s, which are abundant in this field. The editors have not included any recent disease patterns which may appear in the 1990s.

The Preface to this text and atlas asserts that, "dermatologists are performing skin biopsies in increasing numbers in quest of an accurate tissue diagnosis as the basis for effective management of skin disease. Unfortunately they do not always get the diagnostic pathology service which they deserve." The authors set out to remedy the problem with an illustrated account of the commoner skin conditions which turn up as biopsy specimens.

In this task they have triumphed. The photographs are in colour, well printed, of very good quality, and are well laid out. The selection of conditions illustrated is reasonably comprehensive and largely represents cases seen in the authors' routine practice. For a dermatologist the most useful feature is the inclusion of good clinical photographs to complement the histopathology, so that some appreciation of the clinical appearance of lesions can be gained.

The book can be recommended to any dermatologist or pathologist who is starting on the road towards an acceptable level of dermatopathological literacy. Problems of differential diagnosis will have to be solved elsewhere but as an introduction to or refresher of the subject, it represents good value.

N KIRKHAM


The iridoviruses are the largest of theicosahedral viruses; they infect insects, frogs, fish and pigs. They are just large enough to be visible by light microscopy and to give iridescent colours from the diffraction of light by their crystalline arrays in the transparent corona of their insect vectors. They have a capsid of complex skew symmetry. This book is a series of essays by different authors and shows that disease patterns, and other chemically and genetically to each other, clinical Dermatopathology. A Text and Colour Atlas. A Stevens, PR Wheeler, JS Lowe. (Pp 195; £49.50.) Churchill Livingstone. 1989. ISBN 0-44-02583-5.

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N KIRKHAM


This monograph is the latest of the Perspectives in Pediatric Pathology series and covers pathological and related clinical aspects of