Book reviews

International Histological Classification of Tumours No. 4: Histological Typing of Oral and Oropharyngeal Tumours By P. N. Wahi in collaboration with B. Cohen, Usha K. Luthra, and H. Torloni, and pathologists in 11 countries. (Pp. 27; 40 figures + 53 colour slides. Book and slides: £5.00. Book only: £1.20.) Geneva: World Health Organization. 1971.

This is the fourth in the now well known WHO series devoted to an *International Histological Classification of Tumours*. The form of each publication has been standardized to comprise: (1) a book, giving the proposed classification and nomenclature of tumours and tumour-like lesions in the particular anatomical site under consideration, and illustrating with colour photomicrographs histological features; and (2) a series of 35 mm colour transparencies of the microscopic appearances of the tumours. Through the publication of this series, the WHO aims to establish an internationally agreed nomenclature for tumours and to provide institutes and individual pathologists with reference collections. The colour transparencies should also be valuable in teaching, particularly postgraduate teaching.

Whilst the series as a whole represents a splendid venture by WHO, this particular publication is disappointing. The lesions illustrated include squamous cell carcinoma, granular cell myoblastoma, congenital 'myoblastoma', pyogenic granuloma, mucocoele, and peripheral giant cell granuloma. The photomicrograph of a 'benign lymphoepithelial lesion' is of poor quality. Although the text implies that soft tissue tumours of the region are not to be discussed because they 'do not differ in any essential particulars from tumours of these tissues arising elsewhere in the body', illustrations are given of traumatic neuroma, neurofibroma, neurilemmoma, and (curiously) of an alveolar soft part sarcoma. The conditions illustrated must be familiar to all histopathologists, and there can be little or no disagreement with the terminology which is that used in most standard textbooks. It is doubtful if the value of this particular collection will prove to be commensurate with the time, work, and expense which its compilation must have entailed.

N. F. C. GOWING

International Histological Classification of Tumours No. 5: Histological Typing of Odontogenic Tumours, Jaw Cysts, and Allied Lesions By J. J. Pindborg and I. R. H. Kramer in collaboration with H. Torloni. (Pp. 45; 133 figures + a set of 150 colour transparencies. Book and transparencies: £15.00. Book only: £3.60.) Geneva: World Health Organization. 1971.

General remarks concerning the WHO series entitled *International Histological Classification of Tumours* have been included in a review of the publication devoted to oral and oesophageal tumours.

Odontogenic tumours are seen only rarely in the practice of most pathologists. In this publication (no. 5 of the series) the authors and their collaborators have produced a slide collection and accompanying text of outstanding quality and value. The 150 transparencies include photographs illustrating the macroscopic and radiological appearances of some tumours, as well as many excellent photomicrographs. The text is characterized by a lucid and succinct style, the definition and description of each lesion being given with admirable clarity. Apart from odontogenic tumours in the strict sense, other lesions important in differential diagnosis (such as the various types of jaw cysts and dysplastic bone lesions) are discussed and illustrated.

This publication can be recommended without reservation to all histopathologists who wish to have ready access to a first class reference collection of these uncommon neoplasms.

N. F. C. GOWING

An Introduction to the Diagnostic Histopathology of the Skin By J. A. Milne. (Pp. vii + 363; illustrated. £9.00.) London: Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd. 1972.

Many textbooks of dermatopathology consulted by histopathologists have been written by dermatologists who have gained their expertise in histopathology while practising their clinical specialty. Rightly or wrongly professional histopathologists view with some suspicion pronouncements in their discipline made by those who have not undergone the long training required in general pathology before specialization. No such reservation need be made when using Professor Milne's new book. He

must be near to unique in having graduated to a clinical chair after spending many of his training and practising years in a laboratory discipline.

In the tradition of his school he has written an excellent textbook for the postgraduate and practising histopathologist based on a long experience in his specialty. The modesty of the title should not deter the potential purchaser; there is a wealth of careful analysis of dermatopathology based on accepted pathological principles with a welcome paucity of the eponymic and descriptive terminology so prevalent in clinical dermatology. Using this book there is much less need for the practice common to many of us, of framing a descriptive report then thumbing through a standard textbook for a matching picture with an appropriate diagnosis.

The book is beautifully produced with remarkably few printing errors and is lavishly illustrated. Indeed the photomicrographs are so many that they have created, in places, that irritating juxtaposition of the wrong pictures with the text. For example the text on basal-cell carcinoma accommodates the photomicrographs of Bowen's disease which has been discussed three pages earlier.

One can, of course, criticize, particularly the dogmatism in aspects of the histogenesis of certain lesions. The statement that melanocarcinoma is a rare tumour is perhaps unfortunate depending as it does on one's concept of rarity. It is a pity that the myth of perineural lymphatics is perpetuated as is also the term 'squamous epithelioma' even although it is relegated to brackets. These are very minor criticisms of a book that is a 'must' for all histopathology departments.

W. B. ROBERTSON

Histochemistry, Theoretical and Applied. Vol. 2, 3rd edition By A. G. Everson. (Pp. 758; 134 figures including 15 colour plates; 46 tables. £8.00.) Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone. 1972.

Volume 2 of the third edition of Professor Pearse's *Histochemistry* has come at last to parturition four years after its twin, and practising pathologists and histochemists despondent over its prolonged gestation will rejoice at its birth. The simple statistical fact that the second edition had 998 pages in a single volume, while the third, 11 years later, has 1,518 pages in two gives some indication of the increase in techniques and in their clinical application.

tion which Professor Pearse has had to survey. This second volume is principally concerned with enzyme demonstration, but there are interesting new chapters on fluorescence microscopy, autoradiography, and electron histochemistry, and an outline of techniques available for quantitation; of special interest because of the wide field of potential clinical application is the chapter on the demonstration of biogenic amines. I personally have always regretted that the titles of journal articles are not included in the reference lists, but otherwise I have nothing but praise for volume 2, which is of the same high standard as its predecessor; the two will continue deservedly to be an essential on the bookshelves of every routine and research pathological laboratory.

IAN DAWSON

Exfoliative Cytology By G. S. Andrews. (Pp. xiii + 103; 32 figures. \$12.00.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1971.

In entitling this work *Exfoliative Cytology*, the author invites comparison with the many outstanding texts that now exist.

The first chapter presents an account of the morphology and chemistry of the malignant cell. Two more chapters, about half the book, are devoted to the female genital and respiratory tracts. Two brief chapters describe the problems in examining other body fluids, and the author summarizes his conclusions in a final chapter. The illustrations are in black and white.

In his own words, he has attempted to 'review the present position of exfoliative cytology both from the technical laboratory aspect and from the point of view of its practical value to clinical work based on the experience of running a large cytology department both for hospital patients and for the general population of the area'.

Unfortunately the reviewer believes the author has fallen victim to his own ambition—there is much that is useful and of interest, but the monograph cannot be recommended as a standard text for the tyro in exfoliative cytological practice.

M. LEVENE

The Platelet Edited by K. M. Brinkhous, R. W. Shermer, and F. K. Mostofi. International Academy of Pathology Monograph by 40 authors. (Pp. xiii + 420;

illustrated. £12.00.) Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins Co. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone. 1972.

This volume is one of the monographs on pathology of the International Academy of Pathology. The main editor is a distinguished pathologist and an authority on platelet research. The chapters, all by different authors, are expansions of lectures given at a course entitled 'Pathologic physiology and anatomy of the platelet'. The individual chapters are all quite short and cover almost every aspect of the subject, from the origin of the platelets as cytoplasmic fragments of the megakaryocyte to the involvement of platelets in disease and the clinical evaluation of platelet function. The quality of the chapters varies considerably, both in writing and in content selection; this is inevitable in such a collection. Some contributions, particularly on more fundamental aspects, do not relate confirmed observations on platelets sufficiently to analogous observations made with other types of cell.

Recognition of the involvement of platelets in several important clinical conditions, eg, in homograft rejection, has led to a remarkable acceleration in research on platelets and understanding of their functioning. This in turn has caused the appearance in the last few years of many books and review articles on platelets, most of which are more specialized and less comprehensive than this one. Therefore, this volume is likely to appeal less to specialists than to general, particularly clinical, pathologists, as well as to haematologists and to those concerned with medical and surgical problems of haemostasis and blood transfusion. The book is as up to date as can be expected (the publication date is 1971); it is well produced with clear illustrations and has a comprehensive index.

G. V. R. BORN

Glycoproteins of Blood Cells and Plasma Edited by G. A. Jamieson and Tibor J. Greenwalt. (Pp. xii + 307; illustrated. £9.00.) Philadelphia and Toronto: J. B. Lippincott Co. Oxford and Edinburgh: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1971.

Modern methods of purification and identification have put the chemistry, biochemistry, and chemical pathology of the glycoproteins on a sound basis. This volume records the Proceedings of the

Fourth Annual Red Cross Scientific Symposium dedicated to Professor Newberger, who has continued to make major contributions to the subject since he isolated a pure glycopeptide from albumin more than 30 years ago.

Although the Symposium was mainly concerned with glycoproteins as they occur in the blood cells, and, among other topics considered, immunoglobulin structure, surface membranes, and glycopeptide hormones other glycoproteins also received attention, eg, those of epithelial secretions, connective tissue interfibrillary matrix, and collagen. Not surprisingly, this volume will, therefore, be of interest to a wide group of workers including haematologists, immunologists, oncologists, endocrinologists, virologists, and biochemists. It defines present knowledge as well as lack of knowledge of these important compounds. The publication within one year of the contributions of experts and their discussions make the volume a useful, up-to-date account of the subject.

C. H. GRANT

The Pneumonias By Hobart M. Reinhard. (Pp. + 215; 29 figures; 14 tables. £7.50.) United Kingdom, Europe, and British Commonwealth: Adam Hilger Ltd. Rest of the world: Warren H. Green, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri. 1972.

This book gives a comprehensive list of agents causing consolidation of the lung. A brief description is given of the nature of the agent, its laboratory isolation and confirmation, the clinical features, and treatment.

Sadly the problems associated with the pneumonias are almost totally omitted. For a whole book devoted to the subject of pneumonia, there is only passing reference to pathogenesis or to discussion upon the various ways in which invading organisms may initiate 'pneumonic' inflammation in the lung. The practical aspects of the problems of managing the acutely ill patient with a pneumonia are also largely ignored. There is, for instance, no informed discussion on the choice of antibiotics before bacterial identification, or the criteria for assuming that the sputum culture results reported from the laboratory, do or do not reflect the causal agent. The chapter on allergic pneumonias is particularly disappointing in that its excessive brevity has resulted in a number of misleading statements.