and will be a good jumping-off ground for those taking the MCB and the Final Examination. There is a good index but one or two pages show evidence of slips in proof-reading.

M. G. RINSLER

Theory and Practice of Histological Techniques. Edited by John D. Bancroft and Alan Stevens, with a Foreword by I. M. P. Dawson. (Pp. 436; illustrated; £13.00.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone. 1977.

This beautifully produced book will be welcomed alike by trainee histopathologists and trainee medical laboratory technicians. It contains quite superb theoretical accounts of light microscopy, fixation, and tissue processing methods and then deals with staining techniques for various tissue constituents; there follow chapters on the more specialised techniques involved in bone and neuropathology, enzyme histochemistry, cytology, electron microscopy, autoradiography, immunofluorescence, and museum specimen preparation. The chapter on exfoliative cytology deserves particular commendation.

Junior technicians in the department thought it would provide a much needed standard text for use in preparation for ONC and HNC examinations; senior technical colleagues were also enthusiastic but considered that, for use at the bench, some greater details were required and that there should be a section on precautions and safety in the laboratory.

The book does not exhaust alternative methods. There are some notable omissions, for example, the orcein method for HBs antigen. Whereas the chapter on amyloid seems a disproportionately lengthy 20 pages, immunofluorescence is dealt with in seven and other immunohistochemical methods which are now becoming routine are not discussed. These criticisms, however, can be met in future editions which the demand for this excellent text will ensure.

R. N. M. MACSWEEN

Education and Training for Clinical Chemistry. Edited by Martin Rubin and Per Lous. (Pp. 196; £6.50) Lancaster: MTP Press Ltd. 1977.

The delivery of a chemical pathology (clinical chemistry) service has become more complex over recent years in terms of both the underlying chemistry and its technology. The clinical, scientific, and

technical skills required to support such a service must be based on a good and comprehensive educational system. In this book the training programmes of 42 countries are examined in some detail against the background of the laboratory organisation in each on behalf of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry and the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry. The authors recommend a broadly based educational programme to be supported by national and international bodies.

M. G. RINSLER

Special Tumors of Ovary and Testis. Comparative Pathology and Histological Identification. 2nd edition. By Gunnar Teilum. (Pp. 513; illustrated; D.Kr. 380.00.) Copenhagen; Munksgaard. 1976.

The first (1971) edition of this magnificent work shed untold new light on the complex interrelationship of ovarian and testicular tumours and their extragonadal cousins. This second edition, based on a life-time's study by an acknowledged authority, deals first with theoretical and experimental aspects and then systematically describes the individual tumours, the emphasis being on practical histological identification. One senses the enthusiastic collector presenting his treasures, beautifully illustrated for others to recognise. His frequent references to endodermal sinus (yolk sac) tumour are understandable now that alpha-fetoprotein studies have supported his original concept of its histogenesis. His classification of testicular tumours differs from that of the British Testicular Tumour Panel but the two are easily correlated.

The simple concise text gives the book an almost biblical authority. Any pathologist dealing, even occasionally, with gonadal neoplasms should seek an opportunity of browsing through this book and would thereafter almost certainly covet a copy for his department.

N. J. BROWN

Scanning Electron Microscopy. Proceedings of the 10th Annual SEM Symposium, Chicago, 1977. Edited by Om Johari and R. P. Becker. (Vol. I, pp. 784; \$32.50. Vol. II, pp. 720; \$31. Two-volume set \$53.50.) Chicago: IIT Research Institute.

Volume I includes workshops on materials science, analytical electron microscopy, and biological specimen preparation. Volume II includes workshops on SEM

as an aid in diagnosis, and other biomedical applications.

The 1977 proceedings follow the same general pattern as the preceding parts of this series (*Journal of Clinical Pathology*, 30, 298). Volume I, mainly technical, contains papers on practical topics such as dimensional changes, new dehydration methods, and specimen conductivity. There is a beginner's bibliography of basic techniques, and Humphreys' paper on health and safety hazards should be read in every EM laboratory.

In Volume II there is a workshop on SEM in diagnosis. As Nopanitaya says of liver biopsies, this is 'only a first tentative step' in the direction of a genuine diagnostic role for SEM but glimpses of the potential are clearly seen. Abraham's emphasis on tissue x-ray analysis is a fair statement of the current proven uses of this technique. Buss and Hellweg's review of blood vessels and McKee's review of SEM in medical microbiology will prove of interest to specialists. There are numerous other contributions in different areas of biomedical science.

These well-produced books are an invaluable source of information on current developments in an expanding field with which the well-informed pathologist will want to keep in touch.

P. G. TONER

A Colour Atlas of Cardiac Pathology. By Geoffrey Farrer-Brown. (Pp. 158; 408 colour figures; £13.00) London: Wolfe Medical Publications. 1977.

This atlas consists of some 370 colour illustrations of gross and microscopic cardiac pathology and over 40 radiographs, mainly of cardiac vasculature.

Dr. Farrer-Brown has obviously photographed and chosen his material with care, and the colours of the transparencies have been reproduced faithfully. The result is a collection of realistic representations of necropsy, museum, and surgical material which, with only occasional exceptions, convey their messages clearly at first glance. In general, the technical production is also good although a few pictures are noticeably too small.

The book is aimed at a mixed readership which includes clinical students and junior pathologists, for whom there are ample views of normal anatomy and common abnormalities and an easily understood series on congenital cardiac pathology. Over a quarter of the contents

are devoted to the coronary circulation and ischaemic heart disease, the author's own interests being represented here by numerous microangiographs. For more senior pathologists and clinicians the main value of such an atlas is likely to be for the illustrations of conditions they rarely see in the flesh and for teaching.

This volume fulfils its planned purpose as a visual aid in cardiac pathology admirably and by present standards it is not expensive. For anyone who has to teach on this subject it is a strongly recommended supplement to their reference books and at this price it should also appeal to any pathologist with an interest in colour photography.

ARIELA POMERANCE

Current Trends in the Management of Breast Cancer. Edited by R. Robinson Baker (Pp. xiii + 159; illustrated; £9.75) London: Baillière Tindall. 1977.

As a pathologist, my inclination was to decline to review this book because of its title. In fact it is a clear, up-to-date account of all that should be known by anyone connected with the epidemiology, pathology, radiology or clinical management of breast cancer. Dr Baker's crisp style of writing is particularly lucid but all the contributors are to be congratulated on producing such a clear, comprehensive, and yet concise monograph on breast cancer. At nearly £10 it is expensive but invaluable. It is a tribute to The Johns Hopkins School that it can muster such an array of talent.

J. G. AZZOPARDI

Radiotracer Techniques and Applications, Volume 1. Edited by A. Evans and M. Muramatsu (Pp. xiii + 687; illustrated; SFr. 205) New York: Marcel Dekker Inc. 1977.

This book forms the first part of a comprehensive two-volume work on the principles and practice of radionuclide tracer methods. The first seven chapters discuss fundamental aspects of tracer methods, including choice of radionuclide, safety, measurement of radioactivity, and the preparation, quality control, and stability of radionuclide labelled compounds. The remaining chapters deal with such topics as the behaviour of carrier-free radionuclides, isotope effects, exchange processes, solution properties, and interfacial phenomena.

This is a multi-author work and, in

consequence, the standard of presentation varies widely. It is particularly unfortunate that the first three chapters are mediocre as this may deter many readers from reaching some of the excellent later chapters.

For the clinical pathologist using radionuclide techniques this book provides much useful background material. However, the excessively high price, for a book which is not even set in letterpress, will deter most individuals, and indeed many libraries, from adding it to their bookshelves.

D. M. TAYLOR

Breast Cancer: A Multidisciplinary Approach. Edited by G. St-Arneault, P. Band, and L. Israel (Pp. viii + 197; illustrated; DM 68--; US \$27.90) Berlin: Heidelberg: New York: Springer-Verlag. 1976.

This volume consists of the Proceedings of the National Conference on Breast Cancer held in Montreal in late 1975. It covers a wide range of clinical, epidemiological, hormonal, and viral problems as well as probing the problems of steroid receptors, hormone dependency, and regulation of growth. The fundamental problems are essentially the more tantalising, and the chapter on breast tumour modeling by Griswold and Corbett makes compelling reading. Tormey and Waalkes provide a very good account of the potential diagnostic and prognostic value of biochemical markers while Heppner writes a critical review of the immunology of breast cancer, steering a dangerous but successful course between the 'optimists' and the 'pessimists'. The chapters on steroid receptors by Wittliff *et al.* and by Bruchovsky and Van Doorn deal crisply with basic aspects of cell biology. Epidemiology is well discussed by Cutler while Anderson summarises the complex genetic factors. On the more clinical side, Fisher is as thought-provoking as ever, and the roles of radiotherapy, chemotherapy, hormones, and non-specific immunotherapy are well summarised: the chemotherapeutic 'cure' is on the horizon (hopefully, this is not another false dawn).

The most outstanding feature of this book is the bringing together of the experimental and clinical fields without the artificiality that has bedevilled such efforts in the past. This is a superbly written and edited book. It is a great shame that it is so atrociously produced, to the point of illegibility. Yet I am grate-

ful to the editor of this journal for having obliged me to read it.

This book is nearly obligatory reading for all those interested in a disease which kills 1 in 14 of women in this country and whose major known cause is 'femaleness'.

J. G. AZZOPARDI