described. A section on orthography is included.

There is an appendix on 'Conserved and Rejected Names of Bacterial Taxa' and another giving published 'Opinions Relating to the Nomenclature of Bacteria', but Appendix 2 ('Approved Lists of Bacterial Names') and Appendix 6 ('Published Sources for Recommended Minimal Descriptions') have unfortunately been postponed to future editions of the code. Included are the *Statutes of the International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology* and the *Statutes of the Bacteriology Section of the International Association of Microbiological Societies*.

As this Code is binding from January 1976 onward it is necessarily of interest to bacteriologists in general and to taxonomists in particular.

N. J. RYAN

The Inflammatory and Atresia-inducing Disease of the Liver and Bile Ducts. By A. Perez-Soler. (Pp. x + 245; illustrated; \$30.00.) Basel: S. Karger. 1976.

This book presents a very individual viewpoint on childhood liver disease, postulating that neonatal hepatitis, extrahepatic biliary atresia, and intrahepatic atresia are facets of a single disease complex caused by a virus. Intrahepatic atresia is reasonably seen as an acquired condition rather than a congenital defect. The literature is extensively reviewed, but few of the references are less than five years old. Curiously, alpha-1-antitrypsin deficiency, a common finding in neonatal hepatitis, is dismissed in a few lines. This is not a book for the general reader.

P. J. SCHEUER

An Atlas of Tumours Involving the Central Nervous System. By R. O. Barnard, V. Logue, and P. S. Reaves. (Pp. x + 158; 196 colour illustrations; £16.50.) Baillière Tindall, 1976.

This Atlas presents a clinicopathological study of tumours of the central nervous system. On each left-hand page the clinical history, physical signs, results of investigations, the operative findings, and outcome of a particular case are outlined: on the opposite page the microscopic appearances of the tumour are illustrated. Successive sections deal with gliomas, lymphoreticular tumours, tumours of blood vessels, pituitary and parapituitary growths, chordoma, dermoid and epi-

dermoid cysts, meningeal tumours, schwannoma and neurofibroma, pineal tumours, and metastatic neoplasms. There is a brief synopsis of rare tumours and also short notes on cytological and technical methods. All the illustrations are in colour, but they vary considerably in quality. As Professor Lucien Rubenstein says in his Foreword, this Atlas may appeal to neurosurgeons, junior pathologists, and senior medical students. The practising histopathologist will doubtless rely on more comprehensive works, such as Professor Rubenstein's own *Atlas of Tumours of the Central Nervous System*, published by the AFIP.

N. F. C. GOWING

Selected Topics in Clinical Bacteriology. Edited by J. de Louvois. (Pp. 262; illustrated; £6.50.) London: Baillière Tindall. 1976.

This book contains eight chapters, of which the first is a thoughtful and helpful discussion by R. Freeman of Leeds of infection in intensive care units. In such patients the usual signs may be obscured, and a system of monitoring is proposed, mainly by cultured methods, by which infection may be detected early. A companion to this is the chapter by J. P. Sanford and A. K. Pierce of Dallas, Texas, on the bacteriology and disinfection of inhalation therapy equipment. Much the largest contributions are extensive reviews—of methods of assay of antibacterial drugs by D. S. Reeves and M. J. Bywater, and by D. A. Liegh on the nature, diagnosis, and treatment of *Bacteroides* infections, concluding with 12 pages of references. The remaining chapters are of less or almost no clinical interest, notably that by L. R. Hill on advances in bacterial taxonomy, discussing methods of 'data acquisition' and 'data processing' (preferably computerised) for bacterial identification. G. Colman writes on the classification of viridans streptococci. The microbiology of medicinal products is discussed by G. Sykes, mainly from the point of view of an official formulating standards of quality and seeking to enforce them. W. C. Noble, writing on the skin as a microbial habitat, seems to pose at least as many questions as he answers.

The merit of publishing such a miscellany as this is questionable. The reader cannot be expected to buy a book in which perhaps only a single chapter is of vital interest to him. Worthwhile review articles

of this nature are accepted and even invited by various regular journals to whose specialised readership they will appeal, and an author who wants his paper to be read by interested people in many countries should recognize that this is the proper way to reach them.

L. P. GARROD

Tumors of the Thymus. Atlas of Tumor Pathology. 2nd series. Fascicle 13. By Juan Rosai and Gerald D. Levine. (Pp. xii + 228; 177 figures; \$4.95.) Washington: Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

It is 20 years since the first AFIP fascicle on *Tumors of the Thymus Gland* was published under the authorship of Dr Benjamin Castleman, and the content of the new fascicle reflects the considerable increase in knowledge which has accrued during that time.

The embryology and congenital anomalies of the thymus are first described, followed by a brief but useful chapter on the thymus in immune deficiencies. About 130 pages are devoted to thymoma, and consideration is then given to thymic carcinoid tumours, anterior mediastinal germ cell tumours, malignant lymphoma, tumour-like conditions, and rarer mediastinal tumours. The book is profusely illustrated with photographs of gross specimens, photomicrographs, electron micrographs, and a number of radiographs. All the pictures are of high quality. Adequate references are given and there is a useful index. This excellent publication will prove to be of great value to pathologists and clinicians alike.

N. F. C. GOWING