Book reviews

descriptions, critical discussion, and some of the appendices and introductory chapters are absent, as are individual acknowledgements of the authors of the original sections. Where relevant, the many addenda and corrigenda issued as a supplement to the standard Bergey have been incorporated.

In the Shorter Bergey, the references to authorities and methods, and page references in the keys to genera, imply access to the standard Bergey, and those who purchase the cheaper volume may find some frustration in this. A clinical bacteriology laboratory will do well to rely mainly on a manual such as *Cowan and Steel's Identification of Medical Bacteria*, investing, if possible, in the standard Bergey for reference on matters of dispute and for unusual and difficult cases.

D. C. E. SPELLER

The Granulocyte: Function and Clinical Utilization, edited by T. J. Greenwalt and G. A. Jamieson. Progress in Clinical and Biological Research, Vol. 13. (Pp. xiii + 341; illustrated; \$30.) New York: Alan R. Liss. 1977.

This book is the proceedings of the American National Red Cross 8th Annual Scientific Symposium held in May 1976. It draws together the experience of the major, predominantly American, groups engaged in the study of the granulocyte and the clinical application of granulocyte transfusions. The initial sections cover, in some detail, the behaviour of both normal and abnormal granulocytes from differentiation and release from the marrow to their functions of leukotaxis, phagocytosis, and bacterial killing. After a short section bearing witness to the fact that mature granulocytes are at present extremely difficult to store for prolonged periods, the final third of the book is concerned with some aspects of collection and transfusion of normal granulocytes. All the contributors seem convinced of the value of such transfusions, and the importance of this section lies not so much in the answers given as in the fact that the right questions are being asked. These include the concern with improving collection methods, particularly filtration leukapheresis which at present results in significant granulocyte damage. In addition, it is important to know how to select those patients from whom granulocyte transfusion is most likely to

justify the expense and labour involved in their collection and what influence, if any, testing for histocompatibility and leucocyte antibodies has on the clinical effectiveness of these cells. In this section I found a contribution on neutrophil antigens by Lalezari particularly interesting.

A single volume dealing, as this does, with our current understanding of the granulocyte from both experimental and clinical viewpoints is timely. It suffers from the inevitable problems of publishing a conference proceedings in that there is some duplication of information while other aspects are inadequately covered. Parts of it make for rather heavy reading, and the method of division according to subject is not entirely logical. However, the speed of publication is such that it will not be too outdated yet, and it could be useful for those interested in granulocytes wanting information on work outside their own immediate field. There may, however, be cheaper ways of obtaining the same information.

J. A. RUSSELL

Recent Advances in Haematology No. 2. Edited by A. V. Hoffbrand, M. C. Brain, and J. Hirsh. (Pp. xii + 478; illustrated; £16.00.) Edinburgh, London, New York: Churchill Livingstone. 1977.

This substantially enlarged second edition of the successful *Recent Advances in Haematology* now has three editors and 35 contributors. It comprises a high-powered review of major advances in haematology since the first edition appeared in 1971. The topics selected include eight chapters on oncology, six on haemostasis, and four on the red cell; additional chapters deal with leucocytes, stem cells, and bone marrow transplantation.

The book is an important source of reference for the established haematologist and senior trainee. The editors and contributors have an international reputation and deal with their areas of specialist interest to a high and uniform standard of presentation. The text is packed with information within a very efficient layout, and there is an extensive bibliography. Several of the chapters are particularly useful in bringing together information which has not previously been available in review form.

Considerable previous knowledge and a lot of concentration are required to gain maximum benefit from the text; the effort

is worthwhile, however, because of the importance of the topics presented and the calibre of the contributors.

J. STUART

Basic Techniques in Diagnostic Histopathology. By Alexander Kennedy. (Pp. x + 117; illustrated; £3.50.) Edinburgh, London, New York: Churchill Livingstone. 1977.

This is not another histological 'cook book'. It is concerned with histopathology specimens before the cutting and staining stages—documentation, recording of gross findings, and the best methods for fixation and selection of tissue blocks for all types of microscopical examination. The cut-up of surgical specimens is described in some detail, and although most techniques are well accepted, the author admits that not all will be appropriate to every laboratory. These laboratory practices are inherited by junior technicians and trainee pathologists from their teachers by word of mouth, but as laboratory staffs have grown, communication has become more difficult, and there is a real need for this book. If every embryo technician and pathologist reads this book in the first week of conception, it will avoid waste of time and tissue and will prevent laboratory errors. A strongly recommended evening's reading.

R. A. B. DRURY

Blood Group Serology. Theory, Techniques, Practical Applications, 5th edition. By Kathleen E. Boorman, Barbara E. Dodd, and P. J. Lincoln. (Pp. 495; illustrated; £12.00.) Edinburgh, London, New York: Churchill Livingstone. 1977.

The fifth edition of 'Boorman and Dodd' has acquired a third author, Dr P. J. Lincoln, and has dropped its former title 'An Introduction to Blood Group Serology'; rightly so, this is no introduction. It provides more than sufficient information, particularly regarding serological techniques, for any technician or science graduate working in a blood transfusion laboratory, or any pathology trainee studying for the final of the MRCPATH in haematology and blood transfusion. After a somewhat shaky beginning the authors describe, in welcome detail, techniques they have found reliable in a lifetime of experience in this field. It is not surprising that the forensic aspects of blood group work are particularly authoritative, but so is the chapter on