The Japanese experience of early gastric cancer is of great interest and is admirably outlined, and the description of gastric polypi, a somewhat neglected topic, will be welcomed by histopathologists. On the other hand, the section on gastrointestinal lymphomas, while excellent in many respects, does not fully take into account current trends in lymphoma classification, and the authoritative paper on the histogenesis of the apudomas is all too brief. Nevertheless this book will be of considerable value to histopathologists faced with unravelling the complexities of gastrointestinal disease.

F. D. LEE

Elastin and Elastic Tissue, edited by L. B. Sandberg, W. R. Gray, and C. Franzblau. (Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology, Volume 79.) (Pp. xv + 782; illustrated; \$71.) New York and London: Plenum Press. 1977.

This book is made up of research papers presented at the First International Conference on Elastin in August 1976. It covers the important recent advances in a field in which interest has grown rapidly in the last few years as knowledge has accumulated. Most of the research papers (which include a methods section in most cases) are of a high standard, and a short general discussion that followed each paper is included. Although there is no chapter giving a general perspective, this is probably the most comprehensive reference book on elastin and certainly the most up-to-date; it is highly recommended to research workers in the connective tissue field, and particularly to new-comers starting to work in this area. The book is divided into sections dealing with morphology, chemical structure and molecular models, physical chemistry, turnover and biosynthesis, and a workshop on the lung. It is not a primer for students or clinicians.

HELEN MUIR

Pathological Basis of Renal Disease. By M. S. Dunnill. (Pp. vii + 473; illustrated; £17.50.) London: W. B. Saunders. 1976.

This is an important and up-to-date book, which will undoubtedly prove to be most popular. It is clearly aimed at ensuring that the diagnostic pathologist can give a helpful and informed service to the renal physician and that lecturers in pathology can have access to a well-reasoned and

up-to-date account of the pathogenesis of renal diseases. The various chapters concentrate on aspects of renal pathology of immediate clinicopathological interest. This book, therefore, while neither as comprehensive as Heptinstall's nor, again, as concerned with the physiology of renal disease as de Wardener's, will, nevertheless, be indispensable to every clinical pathologist.

Its merits reflect the various roles played by Dunnill at Oxford—namely, as a Fellow of Merton, a one-time Director of Medical Studies in the University, as a member of the renal team at the Radcliffe Infirmary, and, above all, as a practising general pathologist, who is one of the country's leading exponents of the application of measurement techniques in histopathology. Plucking his way delicately through the obscurities of nephrological nomenclature, Dunnill offends no one. He clarifies for the student, the general pathologist, and the physician the curious but now widely accepted renal interpretation of words such as 'proliferative' and 'minimal' glomerulonephritis; not that students or young graduates seem to be over-worried by 'newspeak' in this the last decade before 1984.

The contents of this monograph are essentially practical. The text is outstanding by virtue of the clarity and brevity with which complex concepts are analysed. It begins with a superb analysis of experimental glomerulonephritis, and this is followed by the separate consideration of the many varieties of glomerular disease. Dunnill takes the reader easily through complexities of 'membranous' and 'membranoproliferative - glomerulonephritis' (where the diagnostic criteria especially require careful explanation). The diagnostic histopathologist will particularly enjoy the clarity with which important and controversial morphological changes are analysed—for example, what exactly constitutes a 'crescent'. The light and electron micrographs are among the best and most useful I have seen in this field.

The chapters on Schönlein-Henoch purpura, systemic lupus erythematosus and bacterial endocarditis, the kidney in pregnancy, the haemolytic uraemic syndrome, cryoglobulinaemia, and diabetes mellitus are noteworthy. The busy pathologist will find them ideal as a reference; the good student could scarcely seek a better introduction to renal pathology.

The emphasis on glomerular lesions reflects a contemporary and rather curious preoccupation with what is, after all, merely a small knob on a long tubule. The last chapter, however, is devoted to the microanatomy of the tubules and a good account of the countercurrent theory. Perhaps some reference might have been made to Homer-Smith's work and Darmady's valiant attempts at tubular microdissection, with a view to clarifying the pathology of the nephron as a whole. This aside, there are interesting chapters, too, on renal infection, papillary necrosis and interstitial nephritis.

The discussions of renal transplantation rejection and acute tubular necrosis are especially good. The account of Fabry's disease would profit from an electron micrograph showing the glomerular epithelial cell inclusions so characteristic of the disease. Again, the analysis of the nephropathies found in countries where malaria is endemic perhaps oversimplifies the complexity of the renal lesions seen. Here, however, I am expressing a personal prejudice. Morel Maroger and I were driven to coin terms such as 'tropical nephropathy', of which Dunnill gives a clear account, to describe what we saw in Senegal.

These, however, are minor shortcomings in a very good and readable book which has given tremendous pleasure to both the reviewer and his colleagues. The author is to be greatly congratulated.

J. C. SLOPER