years of their course. This book advocates a selective approach to the requesting of tests, rather than the uncritical use of batteries of investigations. It is not a laboratory textbook of practical clinical chemistry but rather a book that provides general information about the biochemical basis of disease.

In this second edition several chapters have been extensively revised, and a new chapter on clinical chemistry in geriatrics has been added. It seems a pity that the latter is so limited in scope, occupying only six pages. Geriatric chemical pathology is likely to be a marked growing point in the future and demands greater attention. It is pleasing to note the attempts by the authors to deal with such topics as therapeutic monitoring, computers, profile and screening methods of investigation, the terminology of SI units, and side room chemical tests, in addition to chemical investigation, but the growth of chemical pathology is such that to encompass all of these items in a single textbook is becoming extremely difficult.

A very readable and comprehensive book which can be recommended to all working in a hospital laboratory.

GW PENNINGTON

Atlas of Human Hemopoietic Development. E Keleman, W Calvo, and TM Flidner. (Pp 266;343 figs; 204 in colour; US \$202.40.) Springer-Verlag. 1979.

The authors' aim is to demonstrate the essential histological, cytological, and electron microscopic findings of various stages of human haemopoietic development obtained during a study of 190 embryos and fetuses.

An introductory chapter discusses the concept of 'first generation haemopoietic cells' in yolk sac, chorion, and body stalk, with subsequent stem cell migration via vitelline and umbilical vessels to establish intraembryonic 'second generation' haemopoiesis in liver. Further stem cell migration results in bone marrow and splenic haemopoiesis, and lymphopoiesis in lymph node and thymus.

The three photographic sections are logically presented in chronological order; the first deals with extraembryonic haemopoiesis, the second with intravascular haemopoietic cells, and a final section with 'organ-bound' haemopoiesis. The photography is of high quality throughout. Black-and-white photographs are used mainly to illustrate organ

development, and there are excellent colour photographs of haemopoietic cells. The electron microscopy includes some fascinating pictures of cellular contacts between endodermal environmental cells and erythropoietic precursors. The text however is not quite so satisfying. The section on embryology lacks illustrations and had me searching for an embryology text containing explanatory line drawings. Furthermore although the authors acknowledge the limitations of morphology in identifying stem cells the photographic legends abound with 'assumed', 'presumed', and 'apparent' progenitor cells, perhaps thereby confirming the illusive nature of the human pluripotent stem cell. Despite these criticisms I think the book would be a useful reference for those working in this field and may also provide some interesting insights for the amateur.

CA SIEFF

Cancer: Assessment and Monitoring. Ed Sir Thomas Symington, AE Williams, and JG McVie. (Pp 412; illustrated; £22.) Churchill Livingstone. 1980.

Publications on cancer and cancer-related topics are appearing at a rate which, many feel, far exceeds the generation of new information. As a result, many items are widely dispersed in the literature, and selective reading becomes harder to maintain. The very diversity of much related information, extending from basic science at one end of the spectrum to clinical trials at the other, does identify the need for books that assemble facts concerning associated topics under strict editorial control.

This book contains a distillate of papers presented at the Tenth Pfizer Symposium on the theme of the assessment and monitoring of cancer. An introductory chapter on the biology of cancer by Symington sets the scene for chapters on clinical assessment, pathological techniques and diagnosis, tumour immunology, radiological assessment, nuclear medicine and assessment, biochemical aspects, and a final section on topics related to data collection. Although some chapters relate to information of little immediate value in the current understanding of disease assessment, others are informative and well referenced.

The heterogeneous quality of the chapters reflects the blanket publication of a symposium, but the critical reader

who has the time to browse through this book will find several bright spots which will amply justify his effort.

JMA WHITEHOUSE

A Colour Atlas of Tumour Histopathology. NFC Gowing. (Pp 272; illustrated; £35.) Wolfe Medical Publications. 1980.

Nine hundred and forty-four colour photographs of Royal Marsden Hospital histopathology specimens, with comments by the professor, should be impressive, interesting, and instructive. It is all of these, even though the pictures are small and the comments are brief.

It is no fault of the author if this book does not prove to be of great importance. Histopathology is not just pattern matching, and atlases are not working bench books. This atlas will be well used by membership candidates in their period of purgatory between the papers and the practical, but many of us may hope that the author will have another opportunity of combining colour photographs with a more extensive text—colour histopathology in depth. Gardeners, ornithologists, and cooks are now well provided with colour publications, and this book, one of the best of its kind, shows the way ahead for histopathology and colour photography.

RAB DRURY

Notice

The Casey Holter Memorial Prize

Entries are invited for the Casey Holter Memorial Prize, which will be awarded in 1981 for the best essay reporting original work bearing on the pathogenesis or treatment of spina bifida or hydrocephalus. The prize will be £250. Entries should be submitted before 30 April 1981 to Mr DG Young, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Yorkhill, Glasgow, G3 8SJ, UK.