Clinical Histocompatibility Testing. Volume 3. Edited by C. B. Carpenter. (Pp. xi + 306; illustrated; \$27.50.) New York: Grune & Stratton Inc. 1979.

This is a better book than its two predecessors, which were similar 'hard-cover' versions of a special issue of *Transplantation Proceedings*. Volume 3 is actually from Volume X, No. 4 of that publication, and consists of the papers presented at the American Association for Clinical Histocompatibility Testing (mercifully abbreviated to AACHT) in 1978. There are interesting introductory papers on the genetics of histocompatibility testing, and succeeding sections give new information on HLA—A, B, C, and DR antigens, some experimental work on MLC and suppressor cells, and two short sections on clinical transplantation and on disease associations. The book reflects the current interests of American workers, and gives a good overall view of the growth points in histocompatibility. It is probably too specialised for the general reader, but even they might benefit from a browse through its pages. It will certainly be read by many workers interested in HLA and lymphocytes.

HEATHER M. DICK

Mechanisms of Intestinal Secretion. Edited by H. J. Binder. (Pp. xiii + 299; illustrated; \$28.00.) New York: Alan R. Liss Inc. 1979.

Intestinal secretion has been rediscovered over the past 10 years and, following the elucidation of the pathophysiology of cholera, has become one of the most exciting growing points in gastrointestinal physiology.

This excellent monograph is the proceedings of a conference, sponsored by The Kroc Foundation, held in California in October 1978, and is dedicated to the late Professor D. V. Kimberg. There are 22 chapters covering most contemporaneous aspects of secretory mechanisms. The first chapter by the editor succinctly summarises current clinical gastroenterological attitudes to intestinal secretion, initial chapters review secretory mechanisms in a variety of tissues including erythrocytes, choroid plexus, cornea, and frog skin, and subsequent chapters cover the various aspects of intestinal secretion including the roles of cyclic nucleotides, calcium, and protein kinases. The neurological aspects, viz.,

adrenergic, cholinergic, peptidergic, and purinergic nerves and their interactions are particularly well covered. An excellent chapter by Hugh Nellans reviews the evidence for the paracellular pathway for ion movement in the mucosa. Generally the literature surveys are well balanced but a notable exception is the chapter by Wright and his colleagues on the isolation of brush border and basolateral membranes that ignores all previous literature on this subject.

The editor and publishers are to be congratulated on the rapid production of a highly readable, reasonably-priced monograph, which is required reading for all with aspirations to understand intestinal function.

T. J. PETERS

A Colour Atlas of Ocular Tumours. By M. A. Bedford. (Pp. 70; 224 colour figures; £12.00.) London: Wolfe Medical Publications Ltd. 1979.

The colour figures provided for this atlas are of a high quality and the text is factual and precise. The subject matter is comprehensive and the illustrations provide excellent examples of the common and rare tumours of the eye, the eyelid, and the conjunctiva. The various conditions which simulate malignant tumours are included, and it is particularly useful that space is devoted to illustrations of the effects and adverse complications of therapy.

The book is confined to *in vivo* appearances and it will not be of value to pathologists, other than to provide background information. The text is written at a level which assumes a broad knowledge of ophthalmology so that it will expand the knowledge of those who already have some experience, but it is not suitable for the undergraduate or the beginner. In this aspect the teaching value would be improved by the judicious use of Letraset arrows.

W. R. LEE

Animal Tissue Techniques. 4th edition. By G. L. Humason. (Pp. xiii + 661; illustrated; £11.40.) San Francisco: W. H. Freeman & Co. 1979.

This work sets out to cover the preparation of sections and their subsequent staining by all the standard techniques.

The book is of American origin and makes few references to English works or suppliers. Those references which are made are often inaccurate or out of date. The larger part of the book is applied to the staining of sections and it is very comprehensive although sometimes the methods mentioned are known by other names in English textbooks.

The chapters relating to section preparation are very poor; many of the techniques explained in great detail are not in my opinion used routinely today in hospital laboratories. Those methods which are in regular use receive only a passing mention. There is very little reference to laboratory safety. The hazards listed are confined to two pages at the rear of the book but they are not mentioned in the relevant chapters.

Those readers unfamiliar with previous editions may find the title misleading as the book deals mainly with human tissues. In fact the only reference specifically to animals is in the use of a 'camel's hair brush' which may be a difficult technique.

In the preface of the book the author gives a list of people to whom the book may be of use, and although 'medical technicians' is included, I think that this book would prove of little use to those people employed in histopathology laboratories.

C. SOWTER

Immunological Aspects of Infectious Diseases. Edited by G. Dick. (Pp. 524; illustrated; £19.95.) Lancaster: MTP Press Ltd. 1979.

Immunology was born from studies of the host's reaction to infections. During the era when antibiotics were thought to solve most of the problems with infections, immunology developed primarily in sectors without much connection with infectious diseases. However, during the last few years there has been a resurgence in interest in the immunology of infectious diseases. This has occurred for good reasons. Thus, for instance, several new and efficient vaccines have been produced, but at the same time the intricacy of the immune defence against infections is being revealed showing that some infections may be immunosuppressive and others immunostimulatory. Among the consequences may be, for instance, immunodeficiency, immune complex diseases, and autoimmune diseases.

Against this background a compre-

hensive review is most welcome. *Immunological Aspects of Infectious Diseases* provides a well-written, multi-authored book on the subject, from basics on specific and non-specific defence against infection, to most recent research on the immunopathology of viral, bacterial, fungal and protozoal infections. Interesting reviews on the relation between infections and allergy, autoimmunity, tissue damaging immune complexes as well as granulomatous lesions are presented. Some overlapping between the chapters may be inevitable, but two chapters on immunodeficiency seems unnecessary. A few minor deficiencies exist such as the reference to clinical effects of transfer factor treatment, although such are not well supported by controlled studies. Likewise, the role of Zn in certain immunodeficiencies is not mentioned.

This up-to-date book should find readers among medical students as well as practitioners and researchers.

L. A. HANSON

Essentials of Neuropathology. By S. S. Schochet and W. F. McCormick. (Pp. vii + 191; illustrated; £8.40, \$16.85.) Hemel Hempstead: Prentice/Hall International. 1979.

It is always a difficult task to condense a large subject like neuropathology into a slim manual of 190 pages. Drs Schochet and McCormick have succeeded in many respects in producing an informative summary of the major diseases of the nervous system. The first section of the book on basic neuropathology is a good introduction to methods of sampling and staining postmortem brains in addition to a well-arranged summary of major neural and pathological structures. The section on malformations and perinatal lesions is followed by the two best chapters in the book: those on trauma and infections. Cerebrovascular disease, metabolic disorders, intoxications, tumours, dementias, and demyelinating diseases are briefly covered. The book ends with sections on disorders of peripheral nerve and muscle. Inevitably there are defects; perhaps the most obvious is the lack of significant clinical details which would be very helpful to pathologists. For most readers, I would suspect, there is an uncomfortable concentration of eponymous terms, many of which are not used in Britain.

The book is fine but the description of its contents on the back cover is almost

completely untrue and may lead to disappointment for the unwary purchaser. It is not a substitute for the larger textbooks necessary for diagnostic neuropathology but forms a concise, well-written, and illustrated introduction to the field of neuropathology.

R. O. WELLER

Burns. A Team Approach. By C. P. Artz, J. A. Moncrief and B. A. Pruitt. (Pp. xi + 583; illustrated; £24.) Eastbourne: W. B. Saunders. 1979.

Various complications can cause or contribute to the illness of burns and cause death. Consequently the treatment of those with large burns is much more than a matter of resuscitative fluid therapy and skin-grafting, important as these are. Though this volume seems primarily intended for surgeons, it contains material of interest to pathologists of various disciplines, especially chapters on the response to heat, skin pathology, metabolic effects, haematological changes, and aspects of burn scarring. Most of this is by clinicians with a scientific bent, and only two pathologists are identifiable among the multiple authorship. This no doubt reflects the scarcity of pathologists concerned with burns in the United States, a feature paralleled in Britain and elsewhere.

The basic theme is the need for a team approach to burned patients, a lesson previously stressed by Leonard Colebrook and more recently (1972) in the Report of the Working Party of the Royal College of Pathologists on *The Pathology of Injury*. All the many contributors are present or past members of the US Army Institute of Surgical Research in San Antonio, Texas, the home of the US Army Burns Center. The contents and the references quoted consequently reflect the strong influence which this centre has, and has had, in promoting the study and up-grading the treatment of burns in the United States. The volume is excellently produced and parts can be recommended to pathologists.

S. SEVITT

Notices

International Society of Haematology

The Joint Meeting of the 18th Congress of the International Society of Haematology and the 16th Congress of the International

Society of Blood Transfusion will be held on 16-22 August 1980 in Montreal, Canada. All enquiries should be addressed to: ISH/ISBT Congress-Montreal, 772 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 1G1.

Vth International Histo- and Cytochemistry Congress 1980

The Vth International Histochemistry and Cytochemistry Congress will be held in Brighton, UK, 17-22 August 1980. Further information from: Secretariat Vth International Histochemistry and Cytochemistry Congress, Royal Microscopical Society, 37/38 St Clements, Oxford OX4 1AJ, UK.

4th International Congress of Immunology

Paris, France. 21-26 July 1980

Further information from Congrès Services, 1, rue Jules-Lefebvre—F-75009 Paris, France.

9th International Symposium on Clinical Enzymology

Verona, 17-20 April 1980

For information please write to: Prof. Angelo Burlina, Centro di Enzimologia Clinica, c/o Laboratorio di Patologia Clinica, Istituti Ospitalieri, I-37100 Verona-Italy.

Correction

A shortened scheme for the identification of indifferent streptococci by Sheena A. Waitkins, Lyn C. Ball, and Cherry A. M. Fraser. (January issue, page 47.)

In the section entitled Media on page 48 the following paragraph was omitted:

<i>Aesculin hydrolysis</i>	
Trypticase Soy Broth (BBL)	15g
Aesculin	0.5g
Ferric citrate	0.25g
Agar	5g
Distilled water	500ml

These were heated gently until thoroughly dissolved, the pH was then adjusted to 7.5, and the medium autoclaved at 15lb for 15 minutes. Aesculin hydrolysis was recognised by the blackening of the medium after five days incubation.