discuss these and related advances. Attention is presently turning away from the fact of DNA damage by chemical agents and towards the nature of the damage and the possibilities for its accurate or inaccurate repair. Evidence is accumulating that the apparent organotrophy of some carcinogens depends on the relative adequacy of DNA repair enzymes in the cells of different tissues. Although advances at the molecular biological level have been spectacular there is a growing realisation that the new insights relate only to the first, or initiating, stage of the carcinogenic process and that other factors, broadly referred to as 'tumour-promoting' or 'modifying' factors, might in the end prove to be more important. Professor E Boyland, in a historical review, stresses this point, and the theme is taken up in the editor's introduction.

Other articles address issues such as carcinogenesis by fungal products, mineral fibres, or a combination of bracken fern and a papilloma virus. Surprisingly, there are no articles on the roles of hormones, and the only article concerning food is on the significance of metabolism by gut bacteria in human carcinogenesis.

Many of the contributors to this issue of the *Bulletin* worked with the late Professor Sir Alexander Haddow and pay tribute to advances in knowledge made under his leadership and to the inspiration of his vision.

FJC ROE

Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases. Vols 1 and 2. Ed GL Mandell, RG Douglas Jr, and JE Bennett. (Pp 2316 + indexes; illustrated; £45.00.) John Wiley and Sons. 1979.

This massive (5.1 kg) treatise is intended to be a definitive work on clinical infectious disease. As all but four of the 172 contributors are from North America the subject coverage reflects the admirable synthesis of microbiology, medicine, epidemiology, and pharmacology that characterises infectious disease practice there. The focus is on information relevant to patient care decisions rather than laboratory diagnosis.

As with any multi-author work of this scope, the quality of writing varies, and some tendency to a strictly North American view is evident. For microbiologists these volumes could serve as a definitive clinical reference work and

would be less expensive than a library of monographs. They are no substitute for one's own bibliography of articles and reviews on special subjects.

H ELLIOTT LARSON

Pathology of the Liver. Ed RNM MacSween, PP Anthony, and PJ Scheuer. (Pp vi + 458; illustrated; £27.) Churchill Livingstone. 1979.

This book, written by a distinguished international group under British editors, fills a long felt need for a comprehensive, systematic text on the pathology of the liver. Each chapter is an authoritative and readable account of some aspect of liver disease. In the initial chapters there is useful background information on liver structure and pathophysiology, and among the succeeding predictable chapter headings are some topics which are sometimes neglected, including childhood afflictions, metabolic errors, and liver pathology associated with diseases of other organs.

This book in no way supplants the deservedly popular manual on liver biopsies previously published by Professor Scheuer; its remit is wider, and the two volumes complement each other. This is an essentially practical book whose natural place is close to the microscope and will be an invaluable *vade-mecum* for all histopathologists. I believe it will also be used by clinical hepatologists and it should be found not only in the pathologists' reporting room but also in the medical library.

Although reasonably priced, the publishers have produced a handsome volume which is a pleasure to handle. I must express one disappointment. The photographs are not up to the customary standards of the publishers. They have suffered in reproduction, and a lack of contrast makes some less informative than they should be.

HM CAMERON

Interpretation of Biopsy of Endometrium. A Blaustein. (Pp ix + 197; 185 illustrations; \$34.) Raven Press. 1979.

This monograph, which takes the form of a primer and atlas of endometrial pathology, potentially fulfils a real need for few tissues are more frequently biopsied than is the endometrium. The text is generally adequate, though far too little attention is paid to the endometrial

patterns which characterise the quite common luteal insufficiency syndrome.

A book of this type must, however, stand or fall on its illustrations. While many here are of high quality, a significant proportion suffer from defects in focusing, magnification, contrast, evenness of illumination, and arrowing. Largely because of these faults in illustration this book is disappointing and does not fully satisfy the need for a simple text and atlas of endometrial biopsy interpretation.

H FOX

Manual for Rapid Laboratory Viral Diagnosis. JD Almeida, P Atanasiu, DW Bradley, PS Gardner, J Maynard, AW Schuurs, A Voller, and RH Yolken. (Pp 48; illustrated; Sw Fr 6 Paperback.) World Health Organization. 1979.

This booklet was put together by a committee of laboratory workers who have extensive experience of the methods described. It contains short chapters describing in outline the technical procedures for directly recognising the presence of viral particles or virus antigens in clinical specimens together with a short bibliography. This book gives a good sense of the present status in this moving field and a good idea of what all the tests involve.

DAJ TYRRELL

Metabolic Control and Disease. 8th ed. Ed PK Bondy and LE Rosenberg. (Pp xviii + 1870; illustrated; £42.75.) WB Saunders. 1980.

This is the latest edition of a book previously published as *Duncan's Diseases of Metabolism*. The 44 contributors are predominantly American and almost half are new since the last edition. The change in title reflects a change in approach since 1974. The book is now even more firmly based on underlying physiological and biochemical principles. It is divided into three parts. The first, entitled 'Mechanisms of Metabolic Control', contains a new chapter on the molecular basis for hormone action as well as others, rewritten from the last edition, dealing with relevant basic mechanisms and inborn errors of metabolism. Part 2 covers some disorders of intermediary metabolism, including a new chapter on the mucopolysaccharidoses. Part 3 is entitled 'Endocrinology' and includes excellent chapters on water

metabolism and on aldosterone.

This is not primarily intended as an advanced textbook of chemical pathology but is aimed at a wide audience, which includes physicians and basic scientists. It is not, and does not claim to be, comprehensive. Nevertheless it can be highly recommended as the best advanced book so far available on interpretative aspects of chemical pathology. It is up to date, well written, and an excellent source of references on recent work. The price is high but no higher than that of other books of similar size.

JOAN F ZILVA

Lymphology. Proceedings of the Sixth International Congress, Prague 1977. Eds P Malek, V Bartos, H Weissleder, MH Witte. (Pp xv + 516; illustrated; £29.50.) YB Medical Publishers Ltd. 1979.

The International Society of Lymphology is a heterogeneous and cosmopolitan group of scientists. This book presents 180 of the communications to its Sixth International Congress. They cover all aspects of lymphology. The individual papers are brief, and insufficient space is given to methods and findings, so that it is sometimes difficult to determine whether authors are presenting fact or opinion. Anyone interested in the lymphatic system who did not attend this congress is likely to find some papers of interest in this collection but the organisers should take steps to speed up the publication of their proceedings.

DH WRIGHT

Clinics in Gastroenterology. Vol 9 No 1. 'Virus Hepatitis'. Guest Ed S Sherlock. (Pp viii + 228; illustrated; £9.) WB Saunders. 1980.

This concise volume is more successful in presenting the up-to-date situation of this rapidly developing subject than some books compiled from symposium papers and includes over 30 references from 1979. Hepatitis A and B are both discussed with useful clinical and pathological coverage. Hepatitis 'non-A non-B' is also well discussed, and a final chapter briefly deals with hepatic injury due to therapeutic drugs. Sound opinions and advice are given, with a small quibble that the presence of antibody to hepatitis Bc antigen does not completely exclude transmission of infection from mother to child, as suggested by a table on page 200. This book represents remarkably good

value for money—an excellent updating and very useful for guidance on practical points, for information on aspects of hepatitis outside the reader's own specialty, and for those preparing for examinations.

NR GRIST

Diagnostic Electron Microscopy of Tumours. FN Ghadially. (Pp ix + 251; illustrated; £32.00.) Butterworths. 1980.

Diagnostic electron microscopy is an expanding field and the medical literature increasingly contains reports describing ultrastructural appearances in a variety of neoplasms. It is difficult for a busy pathologist to keep up with these and to filter out the salient features. Professor Ghadially has, however, helped us here by presenting the filtered facts according to the common questions which one is called upon to try to answer: For example, 'Is it an APUDOMA? What type of APUDOMA is it?' and 'Differential diagnosis of Ewing's tumour, neuroblastoma, and lymphoma'. This format makes it a particularly practical book which is complementary to Ghadially's other book, *Ultrastructural Pathology of the Cell*.

JULIE CROW

Machine Readable Labels in the Blood Transfusion Service. Ed J Jenkins. (Pp 100; illustrated; £2.00 Paperback.) MTP Press Limited. 1979.

This short booklet is the proceedings of a Symposium held in June 1979. Systems of bar code preparation and identification of relevant data on blood donors, place of donation origin, and data linkage are described based on the principles outlined in the Committee for Commonality in Blood Bank Automation whose findings were published in 1977. Practical and theoretical possibilities for the future are outlined, including some of the discussions of the DHSS Working Party on Machine Readable Labels in Blood Transfusion Practice. The book is of interest to regional and hospital blood bankers with a desire for advanced automation.

R MITCHELL

Hepatitis Viruses of Man. AJ Zuckerman and CR Howard. (Pp vii + 269; illustrated; £16.80.) Academic Press. 1979.

This book reviews the rapidly developing subject of viral hepatitis for virologists and teachers and for pathologists, immunologists, and biochemists. An in-

teresting and even entertaining historical introduction gives credit to the early workers with quotations from the war-time accounts by Dr FO MacCallum, who introduced the terms hepatitis A and B which were adopted several decades later. Then follow snapshots of the epidemiology and pathological and clinical features of hepatitis. Hepatitis B is discussed in 13 chapters, including particular detail of biochemical and biophysical aspects of the virus. The chapter on laboratory tests for hepatitis Bs antigen is perhaps unduly critical of radioimmunoassay as slow (although it can be done in less than an hour with only slight loss of sensitivity), costly (so too is modern ELISA equipment), vulnerable to equipment breakdown (not unusually so in our experience), and entailing radioactive hazards (but of low level, easily provided for). Problems of the carrier state, maternal transmission to the newborn, and chronic complications and sequelae are discussed. One chapter deals with hepatitis A and current tests. Others deal with hepatitis in non-human primates, tissue, and organ culture studies, and the prospects for immunisation, interferon, and antiviral therapy.

Jove nods—but only once on page 27 did I note use of the illogical term 'non-parenteral' instead of 'inapparent parenteral', or 'non-percutaneous' (page 174). This compact and readable book includes about 500 references (12 from 1979), is written with the expected authority, and fulfils its objectives.

NR GRIST