the interface between ultrastructure, pathology, and clinical medicine. Volume 5 includes chapters on the heart, blood, and lymphatic vessels, the thymus, the blood, the bone marrow, lymph nodes, and spleen. Volume 10 covers the pituitary, thyroid, parathyroid and adrenal glands, and the endocrine pancreas. As before, the quality of the production of these volumes is sumptuous with paper and printing of the highest quality. At times, in Volume 5, the layout results in an unusual amount of blank paper, amounting to over 10% of the print area. The quality of the electron micrographs is in general very high, although some of the illustrations seem to have been reproduced rather too large for comfort.

As often in edited multiauthor volumes, the scope and quality of the individual contributions varies quite widely. In Volume 5 the sections by Ferrans on the heart, Levine and Bearman on the thymus, and Brunning and Maldonado on blood and bone marrow are particularly well done. On the other hand, Leak's scholarly review of vascular ultrastructure, largely based on material from laboratory animals, lacks detailed comment on how far these results can be extrapolated to man. Even more disappointing, in a book centred on "Human Medicine", is the absence of any description of vascular pathology. The important group of neoplasms of the vascular endothelium and pericytes are not mentioned.

In Volume 10 the thyroid and parathyroids are comprehensively reviewed by Gould, Johannessen and Sobrinho-Simoes, and by Altenähr while some other sections, such as the pituitary and the endocrine pancreas are disappointingly brief.

In a series as ambitious as this it is almost impossible to maintain uniformity of standards and approach in the different sections. Perhaps these volumes could have benefited from more aggressive editing. Nevertheless there is much of value in these books and in the series as a whole. The professional electron microscopist will certainly want to add them to his reference shelf.

PG TONER

Rapid Laboratory Techniques for the Diagnosis of Viral Infections. WHO Technical Report Series No. 661. (Pp 60; 4 sw fr (paperback).) World Health Organization. 1981.

The various methods which can be used

for making a rapid diagnosis of an acute viral infection are described in this WHO technical report. These are immunofluorescence, electronmicroscopy, enzyme labelled and radio-labelled immunosorbent assays (ELISA & RIA), reverse passive haemagglutination, and the detection of specific IgM. The basis of each is briefly outlined and an evaluation is made of the advantages and disadvantages of each technique in terms of expense of equipment, shelf-life of reagents, ease of operation, and sensitivity. A second section indicates which of the methods are appropriate for use in different disease systems such as respiratory tract infections, gastroenteritis, hepatitis, sexually transmitted, CNS, skin, eyes, and arbovirus infections.

This booklet will be found useful by virologists in the clinical field who wish to know which methods will be most appropriate for their needs.

MS PEREIRA

Neuromuscular Diseases. A Practical Approach to Diagnosis and Management. M Swash and MS Schwartz. (Pp 316; illustrated; £25.) Springer-Verlag. 1981.

The authors are a clinical neurologist with experience in muscle biopsy pathology and a clinical neurophysiologist. Between them they have produced a broad, up-to-date account of neuromuscular disease which is not only a practical guide to diagnosis and treatment but also a good reference text with an extensive bibliography. The first section of the book deals with the structure and physiology of normal nerves and muscles. This is followed by a section on the basic principles of electromyography and neuromuscular pathology. By far the largest section of the book is a well written and clear account of the clinical aspects, neurophysiology, and pathology of the wide range of nerve and muscle disorders. Almost unique in its concept and approach, this book will be of considerable value to pathologists and clinicians involved in the diagnosis and treatment of neuromuscular disorders.

RO WELLER

entitled "Adaptation—pathophysiology of intestinal response to disease," organised by the Royal Postgraduate Medical School in collaboration with the Medical Department of Glaxo Group Research, will be held in London on 23 March 1982. The organisers are JM Polak, SR Bloom, NA Wright, MJ Daly. For information, please write to: Dr MJ Daly, Glaxo Group Research, Ware, Herts SG12 0DN.

10th International Symposium on Clinical Enzymology and the 5 Congress Nazionale della Società Italiana Enzimologia Clinica

This Symposium, sponsored by the International Society for Clinical Enzymology will be held in Padua, Italy, 21-24 April 1982. Contributions are invited in the following subjects: pathophysiology, diagnostics, methods. For information, please write to: Professor Angelo Burlina, Centro di Enzimologia Clinica, Laboratorio di Biochimica, Istituti Ospitalieri, Piazzale Stefani 1-37126 Verona, Italy.

Notices

Symposia in Basic Gastroenterology

The Third Symposium in this series