Muscle Pathology in Neuromuscular Disease. András L Korényi-Both. (Pp 487; \$74.50.) Charles C Thomas. 1983.

The title of this book is a slight misnomer as it is devoted to the histopathology of skeletal muscle. There have been a number of such books recently, competently written and well-illustrated. This is no exception. There is a useful chapter on the technique of muscle biopsy and how to handle the specimen. It also discusses the problem of post mortem degradation and suggests that post mortem histochemistry can be quite useful.

However the outstanding feature of the book is the number and quality of the electron micrographs. In many cases they are directly related to the light microscopical appearances and are the most complete information yet available of ultrastructural pathology.

This book is aimed more at the specialist muscle pathologist than for general use.

BARBARA SMITH

The Human Teratomas. Experimental and Clinical Biology. Ed Ivan Damjanov, Barbara B Knowles, and Davor Solter. (Pp 358; \$59.50.) The Humana Press Inc. 1983.

Highly specialist books with multiple authors are often a disappointment. In these volumes, sometimes as the result of a meeting, there is a re-hash of previously published data, a superficial review, and little to recommend the work to other than a directly involved worker. This volume is an exception. The contributors have, with very few exceptions, obviously worked hard to collect and collate information. Chapter 2 by Damjanov on the pathology of human teratomas is a comprehensive survey, and the chapters on epidemiology (Gilman) and the origin of teratomas (Linder) are good surveys although the data have been published elsewhere. Waxman and Deppisch provide a valuable survey of malignant alteration in benign teratomas. The experimental chapters clearly relate how the results of animal work have improved our understanding of germ cell tumours.

The book will be useful for general laboratories by virtue of the chapters on pathology, metastasis (a separate chapter by Oosterhuis), epidemiology, and markers (Heyderman). It will also give an up-to-

date view of these neoplasms and, as far as the reviewer is concerned, revive a lecture which was clearly becoming dated.

CL BERRY

Fetal Antigens and Cancer. Ciba Foundation Symposium 96. (Pp 263; £25.) Pitman Press. 1983.

In the past few years, and with the introduction of monoclonal antibody probes, quite a number of interesting observations have been made in respect to structural, enzymic, and secreted product changes, which occur during differentiation and embryogenesis. Not the least important of these may be the modifications to cell surface glycoproteins and glycolipids. This small book contains little about these more recent data. There is little that has not been previously published or is present in other related volumes on "cancer biology". Indeed, the best parts of this edition are to be found in the discussion section. The area following the topic of "Human Cancer Antigens" was particularly good. It was only here that attention was focused on some new areas of potential relevance to biology, cancer, and differentiation.

Speaking as a pathologist, it is a pity that this edition contains so many loose statements about neoplasms, such as "there exists some relationship between the frequency of cancer and the capacity for proliferation". (What of the small bowel?) OR "Dysplastic naevi, which can be considered precancerous" OR "Breast cancer is an anaplastic tumour". Perhaps better representation at future Symposia would obviate such comments. Nonetheless, this is an eminently readable book and one which had certainly stimulated some of my all-too-often inert and/or absent thought processes.

A MUNRO NEVILLE

Biopsy Pathology of the Lymphoreticular System. DH Wright and PG Isaacson. (Pp 337; £25.) Chapman and Hall. 1983.

To provide practical guidance on a controversial topic such as lymphoreticular pathology without introducing either confusion or whimsical over-simplification is an exacting task. The authors of this book are to be congratulated not only in avoid-

ing these pit-falls but in condensing such a large amount of important information into a volume of manageable size. The text is concise yet readable and the reference whilst of modest size is both up to date and comprehensive. Although the book is mainly concerned with reactive and neoplastic disturbances, pathologists will welcome the excellent account of extra-nodal lymphoid problems. Also valuable is the advice on biopsy processing which reflects extensive experience and re-emphasises the growing necessity of a scientific approach to diagnosis. Classification is discussed but, apart from the justified adoption of a special category for Burkitt's lymphoma, the introduction of yet another system is wisely avoided. With few exceptions the black and white illustrations work well and the value of ultrathin sections is plainly evident.

This book undoubtedly fulfils its aim of providing practical help and should become an indispensable part of the diagnostic pathologist's armamentarium. Clinical oncologists, whose co-operation in the diagnostic process is vital, would also appreciate this modern view of lymphoid disease.

Protein Abnormalities. Vol 1. Physiology of Immunoglobulins: Diagnostic and Clinical Aspects. Ed Stephan E Ritzmann. (Pp 359; £29.) Alan R Liss Inc. 1982.

Physiology of Immunoglobulins is the first volume of a new series aimed at presenting the most recent research in proteins relevant to diagnostic laboratory techniques and clinical medicine in a format which will make information readily available to the busy pathologist, technician or clinician. Volume 1 covers the physiology of immunoglobulins. Future volumes will discuss other serum proteins and their equivalents in body fluids.

The initial section is largely technical. It describes a range of electrophoretic and immunochemical methods including two dimensional high resolution techniques, quantification of serum proteins by nephelometry and turbidimetry, and automation using a fast centrifugal analyser. This section is concluded with a chapter on the interpretation of serum protein values. The second half of the book is devoted to antibody structures and function.

On searching through the book I found