Book reviews

described in the 28 chapters of this volume and it will be found in use to be a reliable guide.

Unquestionably the two volumes of the 7th edition here reviewed are well up to the standards set by their predecessors, and may stand up even better to highly specialised scrutiny. *Topley and Wilson* remains a necessity and one of the good things of life.

JW HOWIE

Clinical Enzymology. Methods in Laboratory Medicine. Vol 3. G Kaldor. (Pp 223; \$35.00.) Praeger. 1983.

This is an attractively produced book which covers all the important aspects of clinical enzymology. The first part of the volume gives a brief and lucid account of enzyme action and the general principles of enzyme assays together with a simple treatment of enzyme kinetics. The rationale for enzyme determinations in the blood are also considered. The remaining chapters discuss individual enzymes, each being introduced by a short methodological section with subsequent fuller consideration of the clinical significance of their determination. Though this volume does not provide an in depth treatment of these enzymes, the material presented is adequate for comprehensive understanding of their clinical role and the writing is clear. It is unfortunate that there are numerous minor textual errors and that the names of so many enzymologists who have contributed to diagnostic enzymology and who are listed in the comprehensive reference section should have been misspelt.

Overall, it is a work that can be recommended for those who require a simple, brief introduction to the subject, and who are involved in the clinical interpretation of enzyme test values.

SB ROSALKI

Transmural Plasma Flow in Atherogenesis. H Jellinek, Z Detre and B Veress. (Pp 190; £13.80.) Akademiai Kiado. 1983.

The title indicates the major interests of the authors, namely that the fundamental lesion in atherosclerosis is disturbance of a physiologically significant process—the transmural transport of blood components. This is a view that would have pleased

Wilens who, in 1951, had treated the aortic wall experimentally as a selective sieve as well as a conducting tube.

There is a good brief description of vascular components; hypertension and associated chemical mediators are treated in detail. Beautiful coloured photomicrographs illustrate the effect of hypoxia on the passage of colloidal iron marker from endothelium to adventitia, and there are several illuminating electronmicrographs. Of particular interest is the stress laid on the production of gaps between endothelial cells followed by subendothelial "oedema". A new permeability tracer is described "Lipofundin -S".

This is a researcher's volume, the product of lively, inquiring generous minds; one's own mind often reels at the flow of ideas, perhaps not always immediately helpful to the reader, but invariably stimulating.

CI LEVINE

Liver in Metabolic Diseases. Falk Symposium 35. Ed L Bianchi, W Gerok, L Landmann, K Sickinger and GA Stalder. (Pp 447; £39.95.) MTP Press Limited. 1983.

The Falk Foundation sponsors excellent meetings on liver disease and related topics; this volume records the contributions to a Basel symposium of October 1982. The book is well produced, although failure to unify terminology between chapters, especially in the figures, is sometimes confusing—and what about "The audience then contributed thoughtful comments and penetrating questions until the moderator was reluctantly forced to terminate the session"!

The 40 or so chapters are up to date and generally of high quality. They cover hepatic metabolism of lipids, amino acids, proteins, carbohydrates, haem compounds, and certain metals and vitamins in health and disease, with sections on some related metabolic disorders: the volume title is inaccurate. The value of much full symposium publication can be questioned, and most of these contents can be found in standard textbooks or are already otherwise published. However, this book will be of use and interest to most chemical pathologists, and to other pathologists with an academic or service bias towards hepatology.

DN BARON

Problems of Antiviral Theory. Ed Sir Charles H Stuart-Harris and John Oxford. (Pp 347; £17.) Academic Press. 1983.

This excellent book is the report of a Beecham Colloquium which was held in September 1982. Despite its fairly long gestation period, it is packed with information and presents a nicely balanced mixture of clinical and molecular aspects of antiviral therapy. The writing is clear and even—a tribute no doubt to the editors, Sir Charles Stuart-Harris and Dr John Oxford. The editors are also to be congratulated on the transcripts of the discussions which followed the formal presentations. The contributors include most of the British experts on the subjects together with some of the leading American and European workers. Sir Charles' introduction includes an "apology for the slow progress" and, unfortunately, even now in early 1984, the practical uses of antiviral therapy are still very limited. Nevertheless, there is real hope for the future. Among the most notable contributions is HP Lambert's essay on target diseases in which he sets out the possible strategies for controlling virus infections.

The average medical reader may find AG Porter's chapter on gene cloning and the molecular biology of interferon somewhat too biochemical but it is nevertheless a scholarly review of a currently exciting topic. This chapter is nicely complemented by GM Scott's following article on the clinical uses of interferon. Although most current and prospective antiviral drugs are discussed, one surprising omission is ribivirin, which is scarcely mentioned. However, despite this minor criticism I found this an enjoyable and useful book which clinical virologists—and possibly also infectious diseases clinicians—will certainly want to have on their book shelves.

MORAG C TIMBURY

Atlas of Gastrointestinal Pathology as seen on Biopsy. Current Histopathology. Vol 6. IMP Dawson. (Pp 158; £34.95.) MTP Press Limited. 1983.

In this book the author's expressed aim is to illustrate common problems in gastrointestinal pathology so that it may act as a bench reference for the reporting pathologist. A total of 370 illustrations are presented, mostly photomicrographs, and nearly all in colour. Many are excellent but