Essentials of Medical Mycology. E Glyn V Evans, James C Gentles. (Pp 195; soft cover £14.95.) Churchill Livingstone. 1985. ISBN 0 443 02505 3.

This is a simple and well constructed handbook, outlining in 23 short chapters the essence and practice of medical mycology, the better to inform those for whom this is not a specialist interest. It provides basic information on the characteristics, distribution, diagnosis, and treatment of the superficial, subcutaneous, and systemic mycoses in a readable and abbreviated form that should serve students and laboratory workers well. Methods are described in the appendix, and the glossary of terms should prove particularly useful. The bibliography is selected, directing the reader to major and substantial texts.

The book has been produced to high standard and the illustrations chosen with care. This is a good buy for the price.

ROSALINDE HURLEY

Age-Related Factors in Carcinogenesis. IARC Scientific Publications No 58. Ed A Likhachev, V Anisimov, R Montesano. (Pp 288; £20.) Oxford University Press. 1986. ISBN 92 832 1158 8.

The published proceedings of a symposium, especially an international symposium, are usually a fairly effective hypnotic. They tend to function as a souvenir for those who attended the meeting rather than as a useful source of information for those who did not, and are often no more than a dressed up book of abstracts in distractingly different typetypes.

This example is different. It is the 58th in a series of publications by the International Agency for Research on Cancer and is a well produced and tidily edited book. It records the scientific presentations at a meeting held over two years ago where scientists from Russia, the United States, the United Kingdom, Scandinavia, and Japan assembled a multidisciplinary farrago of various aspects of cancer and aging. There is a strong bias towards Russian authors because the meeting was held in Leningrad and hosted by the NN Petrov Research Institute of Oncology. It must be admitted that some of the papers are a little turgid. None the less, any medical scientist interested in the topic should find several of the 23 adequately referenced monographs of value, and there are one or

two which might also entertain the less committed reader.

The prize has to go to Richard Peto from Oxford. In a volume called *Age-Related Factors in Carcinogenesis* he begins his contribution by saying: "There is no such thing as ageing and cancer is not related to it." He also makes some interesting observations. Borrow the book from your library and see.

JS LILLEYMAN

Clinical Chemical Pathology. 10th ed. CH Gray, PJN Howorth, MG Rinsler. (Pp 326; soft cover £8.50.) Edward Arnold. 1985. ISBN 0-7131-4487-4.

Many years ago when I was a houseman the senior author of this book regularly queried the value of tests which I had requested. That same practical approach is still evident in this new edition of *Clinical Chemical Pathology*.

Twenty two years after the first edition the book has grown thicker but it is a solid updated review of modern chemical pathology. The text ranges from succinct descriptions of cloned gene linkages, lipoproteins, and immunoglobulins to practical descriptions of current dynamic function tests. There is, however, some unevenness. In depth descriptions are given of many topics but, for example, no mention is made of the sensitivity or specificity of tests, and the metabolic changes due to vomiting could be dealt with in more detail; 3α , 20β -pregnanediol was suspected of causing breast milk jaundice—not the improbable steroid stated on page 234. These are minor criticisms, and I thoroughly recommend this book, especially for primary MRCPath candidates in chemical pathology, and also for their senior colleagues.

T HARGREAVES

Plasma Fibronectin: Structure and Function. Haematology Series. Vol 5. Ed J McDonagh. (Pp 288; \$71.50.) Marcel Dekker Inc. 1985. ISBN 0-8247-7384-5.

The plasma protein fibronectin was first described in the 1940's, but medical scientists paid it scant attention, until it was

purified and chemically characterised in the 1970's. Our understanding of its biological role has since grown rapidly, and now in the 1980's it is accepted as an important protein in haemostasis: it is seen as a kind of "biological superglue."

Published work on fibronectin is scattered over a wide range of scientific journals, and Dr Jan McDonagh and her expert coauthors have done a great service to the haemostasis community by bringing together such a comprehensive collection of information on the protein within the covers of relatively short publications. It is a complicated and wide ranging topic, but the authors have succeeded in producing a very readable text and a very valuable resume of the subject. Departments of haematology and biological sciences will find it a useful addition to their libraries and haemostasis research groups will require it in their laboratories.

The first family with a congenital deficiency of fibronectin has been described since the book was published. This will encourage clinically orientated haemostasis research groups to take more interest in the protein.

JF DAVIDSON

Monoclonal Antibodies for Cancer Detection. Ed RW Baldwin, Vera S Byers. (Pp 195; paperback £29.00; hardback £56.50.) Academic Press. 1985. ISBN 0-12-077020-2 (hardback); ISBN 0-12-077021-2 (paperback).

Monoclonal Antibodies and Cancer Therapy. UCLA Symposia on Molecular and Cellular Biology New Series. Vol 27. Ed RA Reisfeld, S Sell. (Pp 632; £60.) Alan R Liss. 1985. ISBN 0-8451-2626-1.

These two volumes are complementary to each other in providing a comprehensive background to the current status of monoclonal antibodies and their relevance to cancer research.

Baldwin and Byers have produced an 18 chapter, 393 page, multiauthor, well illustrated monograph, with emphasis on the production of monoclonal antibodies to specific antigens and their potential use for localising and treating cancer. Great attention is given to the limitations of the techniques used, and these are particularly useful reviews of developments in antibody imaging and immunoscintigraphy in relation to computed tomography scanning. Attention is focused on methods of conju-

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gating antibodies to radionucleotides, toxin, and drugs. Results of clinical trials are interpreted with wise caution.

Reisfeld and Sell have edited the proceedings of an UCLA symposium, with papers from 80% of the contributors. There are 11 sections with a total of 43 papers in 609 pages. Many recent experiments are reported, and these are, in addition to those in *Monoclonal Antibodies for Cancer Detection*, particularly welcome sections about EBV human hybridoma systems, monoclonal antibodies to lymphokines, cancer vaccines, and monoclonal antibodies to oncogene products.

In spite of inevitable overlap both between and within the books, they make an excellent and valuable addition to the current literature on the subject.

TA LISTER

Pathophysiology. The Biological Principles of Diseases. 2nd ed. International Textbook of Medicine Vol 1. LH Smith, SO Thier. (Pp 1372; £60.) WB Saunders. 1985. ISBN 0-7216-8411-4.

Closer integration of the basic biological sciences with studies in clinical medicine in their broadest sense remains a goal still to be attained. Not only would our understanding of how diseases happen be strengthened by studying them with the frame of reference of normal structure and function, but perturbations of cell and system lead, not infrequently, to our questioning long held assumptions about "the normal state."

This volume represents one of the ways in which this problem can be approached: by the provision of a "pathophysiology" text to be used as a companion to the long established Cecil's *Textbook of Medicine*. A separate volume deals with medical microbiology and infectious diseases.

On the whole, I would judge that this large multiauthor text succeeds in its objectives. The contributors, most of whom come from North America, have been well chosen. There are many excellent chapters, ranging from basic cell biology and genetics to the pathophysiology of the skin, and most provide reviews of admirable clarity and depth.

The fairly small print and double column format make the text somewhat tiring to read, but there is an abundance of good clear diagrams and well reproduced half tone photographs. I would strongly recommend this text to any pathologist with an interest in the broad picture of disease.

N WOOLF

Clinical Gynaecological Oncology. Ed JH Shepherd, JM Monaghan. (Pp 422; £32.50.) Blackwells. 1985.

This book is edited by two experienced gynaecological oncologists and provides a wide ranging review of their subject. They seem to have covered all aspects of this rapidly developing clinical specialty. Pathologists may find the book informative, for it illustrates the relevance of accurate pathological diagnosis in management, but there are features of the book that will be disappointing.

The reproduction of many photomicrographs is of poor quality. There are several spelling mistakes, such as astrocytoma, ependymoma, and phaeocromocytoma. Osteocytoma, mentioned in the chapter on cancer in pregnancy, is not a tumour that pathologists will recognise. The use of the terms lymphosarcoma, reticulum cell sarcoma, and giant follicular lymphoma is quite unacceptable in a 1985 textbook on oncology. In one chapter the terms CIN and carcinoma in situ seem to be used synonymously, which may make the concept of CIN more confusing.

This book is unlikely to be of great use to the general histopathologist, but the specialised gynaecological pathologist may find it useful as a guide to the latest principles of clinical diagnosis and management in gynaecological oncology.

NA SHEPHERD

Advances in Microscopy. Progress in Clinical and Biological Research. Vol 196. Ed RR Cowden, FW Harrison. (Pp 343; £38.) Alan R Liss Inc. 1985. ISBN 0-8451-5046-4.

This represents the proceedings of a symposium on advances in microscopy sponsored by the American Microscopical Society with a few foreign contributors. It contains 19 articles, ranging from procedures applied to light microscopy to electron probe analysis, ultrastructural histochemistry with high voltage electron microscopy, and the use of ultrasoft x rays for autoradiography and imaging. The typesetting is of the cheapest form. It seems that a justification for this symposium is the fact that the National Research Council of the United States has the application of physical methods to biological problems "as one of the priority areas of the future".

A few of the articles have immediate relevance in biomedical research. There is a chapter by Bereiter-Hahn on computer assisted microscope interferometry of living cells; one by Ellen M Rasch on accurate DNA estimates by Feulgen absorption microspectrophotometry; and an article by Elli Kohen *et al* on the applications of microspectrofluorometry to metabolic activity in individual cells.

J CHAYEN

Bronchial Carcinoma. An Integrated Approach to Diagnosis and Management. Ed Michael Bates. (Pp 295; £52.) Springer-Verlag. 1984. ISBN 0-387-13234-1.

The integrated approach to bronchial carcinoma referred to in the title of this book is exemplified by the disciplines represented by its contributors, who represent a mix of surgeons, physicians, pathologists, radiologists, radiotherapists, oncologists, anaesthetists, and an epidemiologist, while the editor doubles up as historian and surgeon. They all provide succinct "state of the art" coverage of their respective subjects, the range of which is truly comprehensive. The 18 chapters can nevertheless be grouped into history and epidemiology (18), diagnosis (7), and treatment (9), although that on immunology straddles the last two of these. The editor has achieved a satisfactory uniformity of style, and the publishers have presented the contributions in a pleasing way.

Concentrating on chapters likely to be of particular interest to pathologists, Ratter and Rees deal with hormone production by bronchial tumours, Canti with cytology, Gibbs and Seal with histology, and Stack with immunology, but of course, many pathologists will be interested in other investigative procedures, such as percutaneous needle biopsy under radiographic control, and how their own endeavours affect treatment.

Those actively working in the field of diagnosis and treatment of bronchial carcinoma will probably find little that is new in this book but will have to admire the way this important tumour's many facets have been brought together, while for those new to the field, or for the generalist, this book provides an excellent and comprehensive summary of the subject.

B CORRIN