editors have collected a splendid list of contributors mostly from the UK, but some from Europe, as well as several from North America. A fairly elementary description of the viruses is given, though the amount of detail varies with different authors; this is a textbook of clinical virology, not a textbook of virology. Growth in cell cultures is well described and there are numerous illustrations of clinical syndromes. Unfortunately, some of these look like soot and whitewash reproductions of colour transparencies and it is often hard to make out the finer details. As one might expect for a first edition of a composite book of this nature, a number of errors have crept in. Madeley's short title *Viruses and the Gut* is a little unfortunate, because he describes viruses other than those that infect the intestinal tract. It would have perhaps been better to have called this 'Viruses and Diarrhoea'. Some of his pictures have been much published, notably that of the Norwalk virus—surely there must be other pictures of Norwalk virus! And it is a pity that his really beautiful micrograph of astroviruses in crystalline array was not chosen to appear on the cover.

Despite the carping this is really a splendid up to date book which every physician having to deal with infectious disease ought to buy, read, and keep as a handy reference. All the contributions are of a very high standard and some—that of Hall on respiratory syncytial virus—are outstanding. It's worth every penny.

TH FLEWETT

Tumour Markers in Clinical Practice. Concepts and Applications. Ed AS Daar. (Pp 536; £55.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1987. ISBN 0-632-01512-8.

This multiauthor book contains 16 chapters covering a wide range of topics centred on the subject of tumour markers. The editor's aim is "to introduce some basic principles and concepts in modern tumour marker research and to highlight those areas which have already found clinical application". There is, perhaps, something of interest for anybody interested in oncology, but many may find some chapters of little interest. For example, while the chapter by Sloane and Ormerod is a balanced and clear description of current diagnostic immunohistochemistry, few of the other chapters

would be of interest to most histopathologists; radiologists would likely find food for thought in the chapter on radio-imaging by Britton and Granowska but find the chapters of idiotypes and treatment of lymphoma (by Glennie and Stevenson) or the Ca antigen (by Harris) less palatable. There are conventional chapters on monoclonal antibodies, the malignant phenotype, and plasma membrane antigens. Other chapters consider topics such as Epstein Barr virus cell lines, monoclonal antibody toxin conjugates, radioimmunoassay of tumour markers, antibodies and bone marrow transplantation, Reed-Sternberg cell markers, melanoma and host tumour response, markers of erythroid differentiation and the use of tumour markers in solid tumours. All are in general up to date. Numerous typographical errors permeate the text, perhaps reflecting the speed with which the book was produced. Errors in the references are particularly common and very irritating: some references described in the text are not to be found at the end of the chapter, others are deficient in authors, journal title, year, volume and/or pages! I do not think that the editor has achieved his aim, and this book cannot be considered an introduction to the topic of tumour markers.

P HALL

Image Analysis. Principles and Practice. (Pp 250; £30.) Joyce-Loebl. 1985. ISBN 0-9510-7080-0.

Many people new to morphometry and image analysis usually have great difficulty in understanding the terminology and the jargon associated with both the hardware and the application software. "*Image Analysis, Principles and Practice*" by Joyce-Loebl will be welcomed by such people. The major topics associated with image analysis are covered in this book in a way which should satisfy all beginners and most experts.

The early chapters deal with the basics of image analysis and explain the measurements which can be made on almost all current systems including the most basic. For more complex systems there are chapters describing video input digitisation, image processing, and more complex measurements. Beginners may still have

difficulty in understanding some of the image processing techniques. A very useful summary is provided at the end of each chapter and a glossary of frequently used but seldom defined terms can be found at the end of the book. The book is written in general terms rather than specifically for the "Magiscan" produced by Joyce-Loebl; nevertheless there is from time to time a covert bias towards this system.

Many people may come to regard this as a bench book and consequently it is likely to have a hard life. The review copy after one read and several browses was beginning to show signs of wear not usually associated with a book costing £30, but it is still highly recommended.

C SOWTER

Understanding, Selecting, and Acquiring Clinical Laboratory Analyzers. MS Lifshitz, RP De Cresce. (Pp 214; soft cover £17.00.) Alan R Liss Inc. 1986. ISBN 0-8451-4221-6.

This is an interesting book which approaches the selection and acquisition of clinical laboratory analysers in an original and helpful way, even though some aspects of costing referred to in the text may be restricted to the North American continent.

The authors do not pretend to have written an encyclopaedia of current automated analytical devices which can be used in clinical laboratories but have covered most of the principle designs that are in common use today. Readers would do well to check that all the functions and facilities are in fact available. In the case of one analyser, the ISE module for the analysis of sodium and potassium was not in general use when the book was published. Nevertheless the reader is given insight to allow him to assess many of the advantages and disadvantages of the instruments discussed which will help in the formulating of a functional specification relating to the problems of handling the workload in his own laboratory.

Most readers would have liked more attention paid to the assessment of running costs in terms of maintenance and consumables. The financial aspects of the book have largely been restricted to the purchase of machines.

MG RINSLER