Enough is told of Hodgkin's own views on specific diseases to allow pathologists to appreciate for themselves how often he anticipated modern thinking although he lived at the time when the compound achromatic microscope had only just been invented. He had a strict code of moral rectitude and devoted himself generously to many issues where he felt he could help those who could not speak for themselves. Maybe Thomas Hodgkin did not practise personal charm but he had much else. The book is full of interest.

HT SWAN

Soft Tissue Sarcomas. Histological Diagnosis. AD Nash. Biopsy Interpretation Series. (Pp 285; \$81.50.) Raven Press. 1989.

The stated aim of this fairly short book is to be a guide to the histological diagnosis of malignant or potentially malignant soft tissue tumours. The book is organised in chapters devoted to each "histogenetic" group with an introductory chapter on general principles and a closing chapter on electron microscopy by JC Vuletin. While there is a probable need for a shortish, manageable book of this type, such a text has to bear comparison with the gold standard of Enzinger and Weiss. Unfortunately this monograph does not survive this acid test.

The style of the book is very conventional, if not old fashioned, and most of it could easily have been written 10 or 15 years ago. Recent developments or controversies of importance are not mentioned; for example, the concept of atypical lipoma, the relation between peripheral neuroepithelioma, Askin tumours, and Ewing's sarcoma, or the existence of extra-renal rhabdoid tumours. The concept of MFH, particularly its pleomorphic variant, is unquestioningly accepted and perpetuated. Very few references dated after late 1986 are included, which probably reflects delay at the publishers.

Although reasonably priced, I would not recommend the purchase of this book—Enzinger and Weiss more than justifies the extra £50 you'll have to spend.

CDM FLETCHER

Bone Marrow Transplantation. Current Controversies. UCLA Symposia on Molecular and Cellular Biology. New Series, Vol 91. Ed RP Gale, RE Champlin. (Pp 700; \$135.) Alan R Liss. 1989. ISBN 0-8451-2690-3.

This volume is based upon a series of papers presented at a UCLA symposium held in March 1988. As well as current data from the

major American and European centres, there are excellent reviews of controversial areas such as the role of bone marrow transplantation in the management of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukaemia by Gale and Butturini and the use of autologous bone marrow transplantation in acute myeloblastic leukaemia in chapters by Champlin and Burnett. Particular sections of interest include an update of the Baltimore group's data on autologous bone marrow transplantation in second remission using purged marrow, the results of which remain impressive, although the case for purging in this situation is not yet made. Results of bone marrow transplantation in genetic disease, myeloma, lymphoma, solid tumours, and thalassaemia are also extensively reviewed by leading groups in each field. This is a book which should be on the shelf of all clinicians and researchers engaged in transplant programmes, and the editors are to be congratulated on providing such a comprehensive and readable text.

NH RUSSELL

Laboratory-Acquired Infections. History Incidence, Causes and Prevention. 2nd ed CH Collins. (Pp 295; £29.) Butterworths. 1988. ISBN 0 407 00218 9.

This second edition is an extremely useful source for the documentation of potential risk and for practical advice on how to minimise the acquisition of laboratory related infections. The first five chapters deal with the accumulated data and review the extensive literature on the subject, including legislation and the official hazard classification of organisms. Subsequently, Collins discusses safe laboratory practices and there is useful information on the physical requirements of a laboratory with respect to health and safety. A new chapter deals with HIV disease as it relates to laboratory workers and provides advice on the practical management of high risk specimens. The well documented risks of hepatitis, typhoid fever, and tuberculosis are explored and there is even mention of the agents causing spongiform encephalopathies and hazardous parasites.

Although this is not a book for casual reading, the detail and care with which the data are presented attest to Collins' profound interest and expertise. It should be an essential reference available in all laboratories dealing with biological specimens and an integral part of Pathology Department libraries.

S HEARD

Ceroid-Lipofuscinoses. Batten Disease and Allied Disorders. Eds JM Opitz, RK Pullarkat. (Pp 308; \$85.) Alan R Liss. 1988. ISBN 0-8451-4251-8.

This book is a compilation of papers presented at a meeting in May 1987 at which the clinical, pathological, and biochemical aspects of Batten's disease (also known as ceroid-lipofuscinosis) in man and in animals were discussed by 75 leading researchers in this group of diseases. There is also an extensive bibliography covering the years 1970–1986, and three reports on treatment which did not seem to be effective.

The clinical section did not add much to what had already been published in the proceedings of an earlier similar meeting in 1980. The morphological appearances are well covered, and the application of electron microscopic examination of uncultured amniotic fluid cells to prenatal diagnosis is described. The animal models, particularly the sheep, have provided an opportunity for studying purified storage bodies of which a low molecular weight protein seems to be a major component.

This update on the research into Batten's disease should be available to all those involved in the diagnosis, management, and biochemical study of the group of disorders collectively known as ceroid-lipofuscinoses.

BD LAURENCE

Basic Histology and Cytology for Medical Laboratory Scientists. AW Currie. (Pp 161 soft cover £12.95.) Churchill Livingstone. 1988. ISBN 0-443-03402-8.

This is a book for MLSOs who are working for HNC and the Special Examination of the Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences. It is quite short, easily readable, and cheap. It covers a lot of ground including the expected chapters on fixation, processing, microtomy, staining, and microscopy as well as less usual topics such as laboratory organisation (but not management), computers, and how to write an essay. The chapters on microscopy, histochemistry, and immunohistology are given greatest detail and are the best.

There are only a few line drawings and these are helpful. Some additional illustrations would be a considerable improvement, particularly diagrams of a cryostat, a light microscope, and a simplified electron microscope. Further emphasis should have been given to the use of control tests, control tissues, and quality control schemes in this