Book reviews

book as they are only mentioned in the discussion on enzyme techniques and immunohistology. Reasons should have been provided for the use of each special stain and histochemical reaction, with references given as to the most appropriate further reading at the end of each chapter rather than together at the end of the book. A discussion on surgical cutup, disinfection, and sterilisation of instruments and cryostats would also have been useful.

The three remaining chapters cover normal histology, histopathology, and cytology. These are the least successful areas as they abound with spelling and factual errors. There is confusion between granuloma and granulation tissue, fibrin and fibrous tissue while the sections on haemostasis, thrombosis, fibrinolysis, and infarction are muddled. It is stated that there is only a single blood supply to the liver and that there is a dual vascular supply to the limbs; also that the juxtaglomerular apparatus controls the osmotic pressure of the blood. The description of the normal histology of the gastrointestinal tract is quite unhelpful, although it could easily be improved by the addition of some simple diagrams. The normal liver is said to show fatty vacuolation and the normal gall bladder to contain Rokitsky-Aschoff sinuses. In the immunology section helper T cells and the interactions between T and B cells are not mentioned; it is stated that cytolysis of an antigen by complement is due to release of its own lysozyme, that the bursa of Fabricius (sic) is the equivalent of the thyroid, that IgD are only found bound to cell surfaces, and that degranulation of mast cells causes a rise in serum IgG levels. The diagram of various immunohistology techniques (Figure 11.3) has a confusing error in the double bridge method.

Although I am sure that there is a need for a book such as this for MLSO students and trainees, I regret that I cannot recommend this particular volume.

AG MACIVER

Lecture Notes on Clinical Chemistry. 4th ed. LG Whitby, AF Smith, GJ Beckett. (Pp 476; £13.95.) Blackwells. 1988. ISBN 0-632-01979-4.

This is a multum in parvo. Having outgrown the medical student lectures which spawned the first edition in 1975, it is now a full and practical account, concise yet easily readable. It deals with all aspects from requesting criteria and specimen collection through the usual biochemical and physiological discus-

sions to interpretation and guidance on further patient study. It is good to have everything together, though it should not supersede the pocket guide which many laboratories produce. Though all medical students and junior housemen may not be expected to purchase a book for every medical specialty, one like it should be in all surgeries and wards for guidance. For post-graduates of all professions in medicine and pathology it is a must, and especially now that junior pathologists are not trained nor examined in all disciplines.

This book, now in its fourth edition, can be safely recommended to all. Perhaps in future editions a fuller reference values table would be useful. Might suggestions be made as to what tests are really useful in the common clinical emergencies? For the laboratory worker further words on the code of practice, health and safety, laboratory design and planning, instrumentation, quality control, staffing, management and costs, etc., would complete it.

JE MIDDLETON

An Endoscopic Approach to Bilio-Pancreatic Disease. L Familiari. (Pp 196; £33.) Piccin Nuova Libreria, S.p.A., Padua, Italy; distributed by Gazelle Book Services, Lancaster. 1988. ISBN 88-299-0404-X.

There can be no doubt that the introduction of sophisticated endoscopic techniques have greatly enhanced the diagnosis of biliary and pancreatic disease, particularly the latter. It is already apparent that endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP), if there are no obvious contraindications, is by far the most effective method of evaluating the biliary system and represents the only means of examining the pancreatic ducts in vivo. It is equally apparent, however, that in order to realise the full potential of these procedures considerable skill and a great deal of enthusiasm are required, as this book most convincingly demonstrates. Its most impressive feature is the correlation of the endoscopic appearances with conventional radiography and computed tomography. There are also some generously proportioned diagrams. The text also imparts useful information, although the reader has to become adjusted to some of the unfamiliar nuances of idiom and terminology. While histopathological and cytological data are not included, pathologists should be familiar with the endoscopist's vision of disease and will find a good deal that is both interesting and pleasing to the eye in this well presented publication.

FD LEE

Metastasis. Ciba Foundation Symposium 141. (Pp 255; £30.50.) John Wiley. 1988. ISBN 0 471 91513 0.

This report of the CIBA Foundation Symposium held in April 1988 brings together an international team of expert contributors who present and discuss aspects of tumour metastasis. Biological topics considered include tissue organisational stability, cell surface properties, cell adhesion studies, role of fibronectin, oncogene induction of metastases, clonal changes during tumour growth, and molecular genetics. There is also a paper on macrophage therapy, and a review of some clinical aspects of metastasis. The discussions which follow each paper underline how many biological problems remain to be solved. By the time a primary malignant tumour has been diagnosed metastasis may already have occurred, so prevention of metastasis may be an unattainable goal. The book is produced to the usual high standards and forms a stimulating and up to date volume of interest to all workers in this and related fields.

C FISHER

Cell Differentiation, Genes and Cancer. Ed T. Kakunaga, T Sugimura, L Tomatis, H Yamasaki. IARC Scientific Publication No 92. (Pp 203; soft cover £25.00.) Oxford University Press. 1989. ISBN 92 832 1192 8.

This slim volume presents material from an IARC symposium on cell differentiation and carcinogenesis, and comprises a mixture of brief reviews and original research reports, most of which are by Japanese workers as the symposium was held at Osaka University. The first section on aberrant differentiation consists only of two reviews, one of which is a lucid presentation on keratinocytes by Yuspa, Kilkenny, and Roop. The section on somatic cell genetics includes a useful review by Stanbridge, together with two of the better research presentations in the book. The section on cell-cell interactions is let down by a disappointing contribution on cadherins by Takeichi. The longest section of the book is devoted to oncogenes, including short chapters on *hst* and *ret* oncogenes by the groups which discovered them. Many of the reports now published in this book have unfortunately been rendered obsolete by full papers in the international literature.

Despite the quality of the contributing authors, this book does not cover any one subject in sufficient depth to act as a