haematologists because with a sound knowledge of its contents, practical laboratory and clinical experience, and a bit of luck, the formidable hurdle of the examination for membership of the Royal College of Pathologists was easily negotiated. With this new edition the editors have ensured that it will continue to be essential reading for postgraduate haematology students and also for established consultants.

They have achieved this by retaining the previous format of selecting eminent haematologists to contribute individual chapters which cover the full range of topics, thereby providing a comprehensive description of current British haematological practice. There is always the danger that well established textbooks may fail to keep up to date, especially as there has been a rapid expansion of knowledge and new technology in haematology in the past few years. This is not the case with the third edition and there are new sections in cytogenetics and leukaemogenesis, marrow transplantation, the immune system, AIDS and blood transfusion plus the incorporation of new information on molecular biology and monoclonal antibody techniques into established chapters from previous editions.

When the second edition in 1981 was reviewed in the *Journal of Clinical Pathology*, it was described as one of the best texts in any haematology department. The same comment applies equally well to this new edition.

DA WINFIELD

Genetic and Related Effects: An Updating of Selected IARC Monographs from Vols. 1 to 42. IARC Monographs of the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans. Supplement 6. (Pp 729; Sw fr 80.) World Health Organisation. 1987. ISBN 92-832-1409-9.

The IARC monographs on carcinogenic risks are like buried treasure—attractive, usually appealing, and carefully hoarded by the user, who would not be without them.

The latest supplement increases the value of the series by presenting a critical up to date (1986) account of the genotoxicity of the compounds and mixtures already assessed. After discussing the predictive value of mutagenicity tests, there is a comprehensive list of all the published data by compound and test type, experimental conditions, and doses or concentrations used, followed by a bar chart of the activity profile. These are fully referenced and evaluated. Brief comments are also made about likely circumstances of human exposure. In future, like the GAP program from NICHHS, it might well be computerised.

This book is valuable for reference and teaching and should be consulted if not always accepted by everyone interested in cancer in industrial man.

AD DAYAN

Atlas of Neuropathology. H Okazaki, B Scheithauer. (Pp 315; £80.) Gower Medical Publishing. 1988. ISBN 0-397-44667-5.

This latest atlas of neuropathology from the Mayo Clinic covers a broad spectrum of disease affecting adult and paediatric nervous systems. The eight chapters are well proportioned, the one dealing with tumours of the nervous system being the most extensive. Photographs of gross specimens are outstanding in many instances are correlated with radiographic (predominantly computed tomography) findings. Histological appearances are also well illustrated by good quality photomicrographs. The accompanying text is succinct, accurate, readable, and briefly, but well referenced.

Unfortunately, there is one major drawback to this otherwise excellent atlas: why are the legends for the illustrations included in the text? Had these been placed beneath the figures with magnification size where appropriate, the book would have been much easier to use.

Despite this criticism the quality, in particular of the macroscopic pictures, is unrivalled by any other atlas on the subject. The book is well priced and will be useful for general pathologists, neuropathologists, neurologists, and neurosurgeons.

SUSAN E DANIEL

Quality Assurance in Haematology. Ed SM Lewis and RL Verwilghen. (Pp 297; £25.) Baillière Tindall. 1988. ISBN 0-7020-1322-6.

This book by experts brings together the essential features of the many written standards and recommendations of the past decade, access to which is often difficult. There are also many useful practical points and also excellent chapters on the application and teaching of statistics. The publication is timely because quality assurance is a dominant feature in accreditation and audit. It is made clear that quality assurance starts at the bedside and is far more than a statistical analysis of machine output; even laboratory design and management are included. The clinical as well as the statistical significance of laboratory results is referred to but not enlarged upon, and blood transfusion receives rather superficial consideration.

This is a reasonably priced book which every haematology department should use and lend to the unit manager to make him/her aware of the complexities and cost of good laboratory practice.

DW DAWSON

Diagnostic Neuropathology. MM Esiri, DR Oppenheimer. (Pp 403; £59.50.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1989. ISBN 0-632-01951-4.

The authors intend this book to be a practical guide to neuropathological methods for trainees and general pathologists. It is easy to read, well laid out, and has a good index. A number of chapters useful for those not practised in neuropathological methods are included, notably on techniques in the post mortem room and on brain cutting with photographs and corresponding labelled line diagrams on coronal and horizontal brain slices. The general text includes chapters on the major processes affecting the central nervous system and a chapter each on peripheral nerve and muscle. These are as comprehensive as is reasonable in a book of this nature and are well illustrated with high quality black and white photographs. Several colour plates are also included.

As a basic general text of neuropathology the book has several competitors, but the earlier sections on practical methods and anatomy will be an advantage for most departments. The price seems reasonable for a good quality hardback book of this type.

DK ROBERTS

Haematology. A Combined Theoretical and Technical Approach. A Simmons. (Pp 443; soft cover £25.) WB Saunders. 1989. ISBN 0-7216-1716-6.

The first 174 pages deal with blood cell formation, anaemias, leucocyte and platelet disorders and blood coagulation. This forms the theoretical portion and is necessarily brief, but it is unfortunate that the 19 colour plates have reproduced so poorly that, except for the two on malaria, they are of no value. There follows a most useful chapter on quality assurance followed by one on that much neglected topic—blood collection. The chapters on technical procedures, each being preceded by the principles followed by technical details, reference ranges, interpretation, and sources of error, are well done. A choice of a particular method is made for a test and this is not always the test most frequently used in the UK. Errors are few.

Dacie's fluid for red cell counting is not 32% sodium tricitrate and the normal values for the differential count in children are not given in absolute numbers but as percentages. The final chapter deals with automatic cell counters which, as stated in the preface, is limited to the advantages and disadvantages of the equipment available.

A useful book which is worth reading by all haematologists and MLSO's.

JW STEWART

Enzymes—Tools and Targets. Vol. 6. *Advances in Clinical Enzymology*. Ed DM Goldberg, DW Moss, E Schmidt, FW Schmidt. (Pp 272; 84 figs.; £125.50.) Karger. 1988. ISBN 3-8055-4688-2.

These proceedings include the text of the John Henry Wilkinson Award Lecture ("Principles of Enzyme-Pattern-Targeted Chemotherapy in Human Leukaemia" by George Weber), together with 28 short papers—all except three by European authors—arranged in five sections:

(i) evolution molecular biology and genetics; (ii) enzyme release, distribution, and elimination; (iii) enzymology of infection and inflammation; (iv) limited proteolysis as a regulatory principle; (v) diagnostic enzymology in man and animals.

There is little discussion of conventional clinical enzymology, but this is quite appropriate for an "advances" volume. Most of the essays are interesting and they offer a useful perspective of the wide ramifications of modern enzyme biochemistry. The volume is well presented, with clear text, good figures, selected references, and a subject index—but the cost is quite high. This reviewer would have preferred the material to be presented in fewer pages, with narrower margins, at a lower cost. It deserves to be read widely by chemical pathologists and others with a nodding acquaintance with enzymology.

SS BROWN

Hydrocephalus Shunt Infections. Roger Bayston. (Pp 160; £22.50.) Chapman and Hall Medical. 1989. ISBN 0-412-31240-9.

Infection of a wide variety of medical devices is now well recognised and various types of

cerebrospinal fluid shunt are no exception. Between three and 27 per cent become infected in the perioperative period, rates varying in different hospitals and among surgeons within hospitals. While some infections present within the first few months, many present late, particularly in the case of ventriculo-atrial shunts, where immune complex glomerulonephritis and arthritis may be the first manifestations. Lack of symptoms in early cases of infection and rejection of blood culture isolates by laboratory workers as "contaminants" contribute to late diagnosis.

Dr Bayston, an expert in the field, has succeeded in producing an inexpensive book which will prove invaluable to clinician and microbiologist alike. He produces a state of the art account based on his own experiences and those from other publications, and illustrates some of the points he makes with succinct case histories. The aetiology of shunt colonisation and the diagnosis of infection, both clinical and within the laboratory, of ventriculo-peritoneal and ventriculo-atrial shunts are reviewed. There is also a chapter on the treatment of shunt infections which gives clearcut advice on their management. There is an excellent chapter which covers surveillance programmes and their contribution to early detection of infection, and the final chapter covers preventive aspects. Each chapter has a short summary, which acts as a useful aid-memoir to the overworked doctor, and the book has an extensive list of references.

This is a remarkable little book which no library should be without and which I recommend to every clinician and his or her laboratory colleagues involved in the management of patients with cerebrospinal fluid shunts.

RH GEORGE

Diagnostic Immunopathology. Ed RB Colvin, AK Bhan, RT McCluskey. (Pp 528; \$99.) Raven Press. 1988. ISBN 0-88167-452-4.

Textbooks are usually targeted at a certain readership which allows the reviewer to place his or her views in context. Several recent texts on immunocytochemistry and diagnosis have been published in which this is difficult to do. I have had some of these on my shelf over the past year or so. They are rarely consulted by anyone (in contrast to certain well known histopathology texts

which wilt within weeks of purchase from use). Once consulted they rarely provide assistance. The text by Colvin *et al* under review here is as good as if not better than many of its rivals. But who or what are they aimed at? There is insufficient detail for a laboratory manual or diagnostic guide. Pathologists in training and approaching examination don't seem to want to use them, preferring to consult journals.

The present book by Colvin *et al* is multiauthored with sections on basic mechanisms, analysis of tissues and diseases, and techniques. Particularly well done in my view are the chapters on immune deficiency, cytoskeletal proteins, and haematopathology. I enjoyed the chapter on tumour stroma principally because I was unaware of the thesis that 'tumours are wounds which don't heal' but I am not sure of its relevance in a book on diagnostic immunopathology.

So here is a book with masses of information and loads of references (as recent as 1988 in many chapters). Much work and arm twisting goes into these enterprises so I hope it is successful. I still wonder, though, who will actually buy it.

KC GATTER

Biopsy Pathology of the Liver. 2nd ed. Biopsy Pathology Series. RS Patrick, JO'D McGee. (Pp 373; £49.50.) Chapman & Hall Medical. 1988. ISBN 0-412-29240-8.

For some strange reason livers seem to get more difficult to report with each year that passes and pathologists need all the help they can get to issue reports that are clinically helpful. The first edition of this text proved a useful addition to the bench books available, containing much useful advice and many important items of information not easily available elsewhere. The second edition has been expanded in some areas, trimmed in others, and has been refined in detail, new subject material being added. The black and white histological illustrations are generally helpful but occasional pictures look so autolysed that they must come from necropsy rather than biopsy material. The text is orientated towards problem solving in the context of biopsies: only sometimes does it occupy space without clarifying a problem. It is a useful book and this edition is a significant improvement on the first, justifying purchase for the reporting room of a histopathology laboratory.

DR DAVIES