Book reviews

Developmental and Neonatal Haematology. (Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Series). Ed JA Stockman III, C, Pochedly. (Pp 348; \$86.50.) 1987. ISBN 0-88167-330-7.

Any book on fetal and neonatal haematology has to be welcomed because there are so few. For this reason alone the editors should be applauded.

As far as the contents are concerned, if there is a problem, it is one of balance. Because fetal and neonatal red cells and platelets have been more studied, they are given pride of place with five chapters on erythrocytes and four about platelets. Inevitably there is some duplication. In contrast, white cells are relegated to a single chapter, and coagulation disturbances to part of one. There is no mention of leukaemia—in the index or anywhere else. Similarly there is scant cover of the profound haematological consequences of TORCH infections. There is an excellent section on exchange transfusion which will be of great value to haematologists who are only spectators of the practice, and a succinct and helpful review of alloimmune thrombocytopenia. The first chapter is a little awkwardly placed as it is a detailed review of the process of haemopoiesis, which is no more relevant to this book than any other on haematology. It is not quite clear why the editors have chosen to give the topic such prominence.

Academic departments, libraries, and any haematologist with an interest in neonatal red cells or platelets should consider buying the book. For them it can be confidently recommended. For the general reader who wants an occasional reference to provide practical advice, its scope is perhaps more limited than the title might suggest.

JS LILLEYMAN

Atlas of Experimental Toxicological Pathology. C Gopinath, DE Prentice, DJ Lewis. Current Histopathology. Vol. 13. (Pp 175; £75.) MTP Press Ltd. 1988. ISBN 0-85200-332-3.

This atlas, the thirteenth in a series, beautifully illustrates over 500 non-neoplastic lesions mainly in rodents, dogs, and primates. These lesions were induced during routine safety evaluation studies on new

drugs and industrial chemicals. In tackling this gargantuan subject, the coverage given to each organ system has inevitably been brief, none the less some fascinating lesions are shown. A further but unavoidable limitation is that for commercial reasons many of the substances inducing the lesions have not been named. One would love to know more about such things as "reticuloendothelial system expanders". It is a pity that none of the micrographs in this atlas bear a magnification.

These criticisms do not detract from the usefulness of this book, which is concisely written and undoubtedly occupies a previously vacant space in the literature. At £75 a copy it is probably beyond the reach of most students, but for toxicological pathologists, the book is worth keeping within reach of the microscope.

CJ POWELL

Urinary Tract Infection in Clinical and Laboratory Practice. R Maskell. (Pp 268; £25.) Edward Arnold. 1988. ISBN 0-7131-4535-8.

Physicians, whether based in hospital or general practice, are often faced with the problem of urinary tract infection. Yet despite its common occurrence, patient management is often less than satisfactory. Many doctors still believe that all is required of them is to issue a prescription for an antibiotic and the problem will disappear. As a result young patients can develop chronic renal failure following renal scarring due to inadequate initial care. Studies have shown that a multidisciplinary assault is in the best interests of the patient. Dr Maskell, with a long experience of urinary tract infections and their problems, has attempted such a multidiscipline approach in this book. Her first all important chapter examines the pathogenesis of urinary tract infections, which as she so rightly says "... is fundamental to all aspects of diagnosis of management of patients with this condition". Subsequent chapters examine laboratory practice, treatment, and management of urinary tract infections in general practice, specialist areas such as paediatrics, and in general medicine and surgery. The book also contains three useful appendices on imaging of the urinary tract, laboratory examination of urine, and the organisation of a urinary infection clinic. Dr Maskell is to be congratulated on producing a volume which should prove useful to clinicians and microbiologists alike.

RC SPENCER

An Introduction to Neuropathology. J Hume Adams and DI Graham. (Pp 309; soft cover £29.85.) Churchill Livingstone. 1988. ISBN 0-443-01554-6.

General pathologists frequently regard neuropathology as so esoteric that they cannot examine the nervous system properly. This book aims to persuade them that the proper examination of the brain and spinal cord is a straightforward exercise and that it will be of help to pathologists in training, experienced pathologists, and to clinicians in the neurological sciences.

The introduction describes the more important techniques in neuropathology including removal of the brain and spinal cord, fixation, block taking, and relevant histological techniques. This is followed by a chapter summarising basic neuroanatomy that will assist the pathologist in describing and interpreting structural abnormalities. There are chapters on the usual groups of disease processes affecting the nervous system including nerve and the muscle. At the end of each chapter there is a short list of references recommending further reading.

This book achieves its aims. It is well written and the illustrations are adequate and of good quality. It is also good value for money.

WR TIMPERLEY

Morphological Tumor Markers. General Aspects and Diagnostic Relevance. Current Topics in Pathology. Vol. 77. Ed. CL Berry, E Grundmann. (Pp 398; DM248.) Springer. 1987. ISBN 3-540-16733-1.

This book covers the diagnostic relevance of a range of tumour markers. Although the emphasis is on immunohistochemistry, biochemical and hybridisation techniques are also dealt with. Much interesting background information is provided on the chemical nature of familiar antigens. Inevitably with a multi-author book some chapters are better written than others, although most are clear and succinct with only some repetition, particularly regarding CEA and AFP.

The diagnostic surgical pathologist will find the chapters on the immunohistochemistry of epithelial and mesenchymal tumours helpful, although there is little on the use of markers in lymphomas. There is also a useful section on pitfalls in immunohistochemistry. The final chapter is a superb overview and valuable summary of the role