pretation of laboratory results confined to the elderly would have been regarded with incredulity. Not only had there been little or no work done on establishing the normal reference range but there was no general recognition that values for the elderly might be different from the normal adult range. Moreover, there would have been suspicion that detailed investigation of the elderly was either inappropriate or a waste of time; but times they are a-changing. Successful treatment of the elderly is now commonplace and it is understood that some test results which are abnormal in a young adult do not indicate disease in an 80 year old. How far to investigate a particular patient's abnormal result is an everyday clinical problem. A better feel for the importance of laboratory testing can only help decision making and Professor Rochman's guidance is welcome. It is aimed at clinicians and is clearly written but in striving to be comprehensive (haematology is covered as well as biochemistry) there is not the necessary depth which a geriatrician might hope for in a specialist monograph. Recommended as a useful read for doctors in training.

PW OVERSTALL

The T-Cell Receptor. UCLA Symposia on Molecular and Cellular Biology New Series Vol 37. Ed MM Davies, J Kappler. (Pp 432; \$76.) Alan R Liss. 1987. ISBN 0-8451-2672-5.

It is now clear that genes encoding the α and β -chains of the T-cell receptor account for the specificity of the cells expressing them; and many of the functions of cells expressing these receptors have been documented. In addition, the properties of T-cells expressing receptor γ and λ -chains is in some way linked to non-MHC-restricted lysis, or to MHC class II restricted signals: such cells may be important in inflammatory diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis. In this context the present publication in the molecular and cellular biology series is of particular importance. It contains a unique collection of articles which describe the important molecular events related to T-cell receptor expression, and the potential importance of the various T-cell receptor molecules in T-cell activation and maturation. T-cells interact with foreign antigens through their membrane bound T-cell receptors, which are composed of heterodimers of α and β -chains each of which contain variable and constant regions. The mapping and generation of diversity and polymorphism is therefore

important to an understanding of T-cell antigen interactions; articles included in this publication refer to the gene maps of α and β -chains of human and murine origin. The T-cell receptor is associated with CD-3 polypeptides on the surface of mature peripheral blood T-lymphocytes mediating specific recognition of antigen in the context of MHC products; a further T-cell receptor (TCR- γ) has been reported; the association of accessory molecules such as CD-4 and CD-8 not covalently bound to the T-cell receptor is under investigation: these findings and problems are all comprehensively addressed in this book. Furthermore, other chapters cover the molecular aspects of recognition molecules, such as LFA-1 and CD-2, and ICAM-1 and LFA-3, which are important in the process of cell-cell contact. The book will prove an excellent reference for those researchers and clinicians who wish to gain a precise understanding of the molecular basis of antigen recognition, and is an example of how molecular biology has been applied to further our understanding of an important subject of biology and immunology.

CW POTTER

Neuropathology. Current Topics in Pathology. Vol 76. Ed CL Berry. (Pp 155; 85 figs; DM 168.) Springer. 1988. ISBN 3-540-16732-3.

Conventional pathologists commonly either refer neuropathological problems to remote and tardy experts, or take a limited approach and may not make the best diagnostic and educational use of their cases. As an attack on such unnecessary weaknesses, Professor Berry has edited interesting chapters by four experts. Two are excellent and should be used by everyone who performs necropsies—Professor Adams on non-missile head injuries and Weller on how to examine the nervous system (the latter should have come first). Both are full of skilled, practical advice, and clear illustrations, ranging from use of a fish slice to diffuse axonal degeneration. The other two are more mixed. Dr Anderson has taken a brief but encyclopaedic view of acute viral encephalitis that mingles common and fashionable disorders in a way that will help trainees more than practitioners. Dr Scholz has covered most spontaneous causes of dementia in the adult in a similar manner. Both of these authors have an irritating wealth of spelling errors, and Dr Anderson has also suffered unexpectedly poor black and white micro-

photographs accompanying excellent coloured plates. On balance, the real value of the expertise of Adams and Weller dominates and makes this a book worth having in every laboratory, because no one can fail to gain from studying the brain.

AD DAYAN

Special Veterinary Pathology. RG Thomson. (Pp 66f; £69.50). Blackwells. 1988. ISBN 1-55664-045-5.

Writing for undergraduate veterinary students Dr Thomson and his colleagues have also produced a book that will enthral postgraduate clinical pathologists, albeit on a "fancy that" basis. It is beautifully produced, lavishly illustrated, and constructed on a system by system basis rather than a species by species one—so there is a chapter on the endocrine system, one on the haemopoietic system, and so on.

Gems abound. Immune haemolytic anaemias are particularly troublesome in dogs, piglets commonly become iron deficient, bracken poisoning causes aplastic anaemia in cows, horses get haemophilia, and chickens get gout. The pictures are unforgettable—acromegalic beagles and pseudomaphrodite pigs jostle with a mind boggling gallery of zoonoses.

What a shame few readers of the *Journal of Clinical Pathology* will ever see it. They would probably learn far more than veterinary pathologists browsing through one of the worthier undergraduate texts on human pathology—and be better entertained.

JS LILLEYMAN

Oxalate Metabolism in Relation to Urinary Stone. The Bloomsbury Series in Clinical Science. Ed. G Alan Rose. (Pp 197; 98 figs.; £48.00). Springer. 1988. ISBN 3-540-19517-3.

This monograph is the proceedings of a workshop involving scientists and clinicians interested in hyperoxaluria and urolithiasis, edited to blend the contributions into an easily readable, well illustrated, and nicely balanced treatise where the strong links between basic science and clinical medicine are emphasised. It is a subject which usually receives only passing reference in standard textbooks of chemical pathology but this book reviews new developments in diagnosis and management.

An accurate measurement of urinary

Book reviews

oxalate is imperative to detect mild forms of the disease but quality assessment schemes indicate that the quality of results from many laboratories does not meet clinical need. Detailed recommendations are made for improving assay techniques, and the importance of measuring urinary glycolate is stressed if the division of hyperoxaluria into metabolic and non-metabolic origin is to be made.

The primary and secondary hyperoxalurias including the enteric type are discussed in detail as is the new syndrome of mild metabolic hyperoxaluria (MMH).

This well produced book is highly recommended to all those involved in the investigation of urinary lithiasis, not only the special centres but particularly in the district general hospital where it should stimulate a re-appraisal of assay methods essential to correct diagnosis and management of an important if uncommon disease.

AC AMES

Tumors of the Upper Respiratory Tract and Ear. VJ Hyams; JG Batsakis, L Michaels. (Pp 343; \$20.) Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. 1988. ISSN 0160-6344.

This, the second series fascicle, appears under completely new authorship. Like its predecessor there is extensive and detailed coverage of neoplastic and non-neoplastic tumours of the ear, nose, and throat. The illustrations are of high quality and, combined with the lucid text, provide an invaluable aid to the surgical pathologist. For those with a detailed interest in ENT pathology, some of the concepts are already a little dated. The text is at times very dogmatic and the references appended are highly selective. It fails to provide a diagnostically usable account of middle necrotising lesions, and the grading of olfactory neuroblastomas is contentious. Curiously, neuroendocrine carcinomas of the larynx are accepted by the authors, but similar lesions in the nose are dismissed. These are relatively minor points, however, in what is otherwise a valuable addition to the reporting room library.

AJ NORTON

Actions and Decisions: Concise Consultations for the Clinical Pathologist. RW Christie. (Pp 176; \$48.) Raven Press. 1988. ISBN 0-89189-256-7.

This book and its accompanying software is

written for the clinical and general pathologist. It is orientated to everyday clinical problems that deserve a consultative interpretation. It is not orientated to the interpretation of rarely used or esoteric tests. Each individual clinical consultation takes as its starting point an abnormal laboratory finding (for example, leucopaenia, raised bilirubin, or positive blood culture) and thereafter places the abnormal finding in terms of a reference range. Actions to be taken are suggested with an identification of the possible causes of the abnormality. The consequences of non-intervention, the effects of drug interference, suggestions for follow up, and sources for further reading are all covered. Among the useful appendices is a microcomputer guide for those who wish to use the available consultations transposed into floppy discs.

Although a portion of the book is directed to the systems of reimbursement in the USA, it will prove invaluable to United Kingdom pathologists, more particularly to those pathologists in training who will need such a ready source of information, not only in their future careers, but also to pass their necessary postgraduate examinations.

GW PENNINGTON

The Malformed Fetus and Stillbirth. A Diagnostic Approach. RM Winters, SAS Knowles, FR Bieber, M Baraitser. (Pp 317; £75.) John Wiley. 1988. ISBN 0-471-90946-7.

Compiled by two pathologists and two clinical geneticists, the book combines fetal/perinatal medicine with dysmorphology to produce a schematic and practical approach aimed at facilitating syndrome diagnosis. It is divided into four sections. The first deals with causes and prevalence of the malformed fetus and stillbirth; the second is a useful outline of practical procedure. Specific abnormalities and useful definitions are dealt with in the third section. The fourth is a directory of non-chromosomal multiple anomaly syndromes which includes a short summary, mode of inheritance, and selected references. This is followed by a valuable appendix of normal data.

I found the nomenclature relating to anterior abdominal wall defects a little confusing at times. Brachman de Lange syndrome and Cornelia de Lange syndrome are used interchangeably; only the former is indexed. Cardiac malformation is not listed among defects associated with exomphalos. The fourth ventricle in the Arnold-Chiari II is illustrated as large; this is atypical.

These are, however, minor irritations compared with the high overall standard of the work. It is well produced and simply written and contains a profusion of high quality photographs at times verging on the format of an atlas. The large number of tables listing syndromes set around specific abnormalities is a central feature. This work will be a valuable addition to book shelves of the perinatal pathologist and clinical geneticist; no doubt paediatricians and obstetricians will also benefit enormously from the breadth of information.

S VARIEND

Atlas of Human Parasitology. 2nd ed. LR Ash, TC Orihel. (Pp 212; \$109.00.) Raven Press. 1988. ISBN 0-89189-179-X.

Parasitology is a difficult subject both for medical students and qualified doctors. The clinical rationale of patient management is based on the visual identification of the correct parasite. This means that atlases such as this one by Ash and Orihel are vital. This particular atlas is excellent in that it is clearly presented with emphasis on the most important pathogens. The temptation to produce a longer book covering much rarer pathogens has been wisely resisted. The illustrations are clear and well labelled. There is unfortunately no guide as to how these conditions should be treated. Each pathogen is dealt with under the headings of classification, disease, geographic distribution, location in the host, morphology, life cycle, and diagnosis. These headings are then illustrated on the adjoining page. I would recommend this book to those people interested in developing a basic understanding of human parasitology.

J BURNIE

Bone Tumours. Contemporary Issues in Surgical Pathology. Vol II. Ed K Krishnan Unni. (Pp 250; £45.) Churchill Livingstone. 1988. ISBN 0-443-08553-6.

This volume, the eleventh in the series *Contemporary Issues in Surgical Pathology*, brings together 11 chapters written by a distinguished panel of authors. Not aimed exclusively at pathologists, it contains articles on bone tumour imaging and surgical management of and chemotherapy for osteosarcoma. Of particular interest to the