cytotechnicians, and clinicians as both a reference text and bench book.

PI RICHMAN

Microbiology in Clinical Practice. 2nd ed. DC Shanson. (Pp 657; soft cover £19.50.) Butterworths. ISBN 0-7236-1403-2.

This excellent book lives up to its title, and the publication of a revised second edition, seven years after the first, is to be welcomed. It does not deal with systematics in any detail and the reader is required to be familiar with the basic properties of bacteria and viruses, including their classification.

The attractive layout is based on diseases and disease syndromes and, as a result, the various causes of infection, at a particular site, or which are responsible for a symptom complex, are considered together. Emphasis is placed on differential diagnosis and the appropriate microbiological examinations are detailed and explained. Tables and figures are used judiciously to strengthen the text and there are a number of black and white photographs.

Inevitably, there is some unevenness of quality: the section on chest infections is particularly good, whereas the discussion on *Escherichia coli* and diarrhoeal disease is fragmented and superficial. Throughout, antimicrobial chemotherapy is considered in detail and the reasons for advocating particular treatments are debated and explained.

The book is intended for senior medical students as well as junior hospital doctors but undergraduates may well find this informative, substantial text a heavy read.

JD SLEIGH

Bone Tumors. Vol. 2. Clinical, Radiologic, and Pathologic Correlations. Joseph M Mirra. (Pp 1831; 1,000 illustrations; £177.41.) Lea & Febiger. 1989. ISBN 0-8121-1156-7.

This is a very large book (5.94 kg) published in two volumes with 1800 pages of text and over 1000 illustrations. Professor Mirra and his colleagues have obviously laboured mightily and produced a mammoth compilation of knowledge—clinical, radiological and pathological. They attempt the necessary synthesis of these aspects of the problems of bone tumours and are generally successful. I was greatly impressed by the comprehensive nature of their coverage. There were a number of very interesting features such as a large number of colour photographs and a terminal chapter called "Quiz and Correlation" using cases from the AFIP collection of bone tumours (reputedly the largest in the world). Given the size and cost of this publication it is unlikely that every histopathologist will wish to own a copy. The proper niche for this book is in departmental collections at the reporting bench. This leads inexorably to my major criticism and that is the uneven quality of many of the illustrations. In particular, there are problems with photomicrographs. Some are frankly out of focus, some show uneven illumination, and in many it is impossible to distinguish nuclei and surrounding cyto-

plasm. These deficiencies subtract substantially from the value of this book, and I hope that they will be addressed in future editions.

J McCLURE

ELISA in the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory. Ed TG Wreghitt, P Morgan-Capner. (Pp 305; £20.) Public Health Laboratory Service. Cash with order from the Treasurer to the Board, 61 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5DF. 1990. ISBN 0 901144 24 X.

This is a fascinating and valuable book, with contributions from several experts in the subject. Three general introductory chapters are followed by 16 on the use of ELISA, in different diagnostic fields, and there is a final chapter on enzyme amplification. Each chapter contains technical details of the methods available for the particular purpose with an assessment of their advantages and disadvantages, and their usefulness in comparison with older serological methods; there are also helpful comments on the interpretation of results.

The book is clearly written and illustrated, contains numerous references, and has been well edited. It can be recommended as an informative and realistic assessment of the state of the art in this rapidly developing field, and will be of interest both to those microbiologists who wish to carry out the techniques themselves and to those who merely seek a clearer understanding of the subject in general.

DM HARRIS

Tumors of the Liver and Intrahepatic Bile Ducts. Atlas of Tumor Pathology. 2nd series. Fascicle 26. JR Craig, RL Peters, HA Edmondson. (Pp 280; soft cover—US\$22.) Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. 1990. ISSN 0160-6344.

I used this newly arrived 26th Fascicle of the second series from the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology to help me with a difficult tumour diagnosis; I found the book easy to use, convenient, and helpful. The layout is better than that in the first series, but many good features remain. Notable are the very high quality of the illustrations, the good print, and the clear subheadings for each tumour (typically, definition, incidence, clinical features, pathogenesis, gross features, microscopic features, differential diagnosis and prognosis). The references extend to the late 1980s and by no means ignore the European literature (an accusation often levelled at American books). Differences between American and British usage are relatively minor, but it was surprising to find no mention of the use of reticulin preparations in distinguishing cirrhotic nodules and hepatocellular adenomas from hepatocellular carcinomas. This remarkably low priced guide to diagnosis will have a welcome place on my bookshelf and will be much used.

PJ SCHEUER

Colon Cancer Cells. Ed Mary P Moyer, George H Poste. Cell Biology: A Series of Monographs. (Pp 554; \$175.) Academic Press Inc. 1990. ISBN 0-12-509375-6.

This book will not be everyone's cup of tea. I must confess to some misgivings on receiving the book but these were largely unfounded. The title is the latest in a series of "Cell Biology" monographs produced in the USA by Academic Press. It contains 21 chapters covering pathological, experimental, and cytogenetic aspects of colorectal carcinogenesis. There is much in the book of clinical relevance and those with a particular interest in gastrointestinal pathology will find many of the chapters useful. There are inevitable idiosyncrasies; for example, in Shamsuddin's chapter, out of the 42 references, 19 are to himself and his rebuttal of the term adenoma is confusing. A chapter by one of the editors fails accurately to identify the Dukes classification. There is much overlap in the chapters on cell lines and to many these will make for dreary reading. In a book of this size with multiple authors it is not surprising that many chapters do not contain up to date references. Those with an interest in colorectal cancer will, however, find the book a source of useful reference. As for the general pathology department, I do not believe that this title will be of sufficient interest to justify its purchase at \$175.

NA SHEPHERD

Gastrointestinal and Oesophageal Pathology. Ed R Whitehead. (Pp 960; 729 illustrations; £125.) Churchill Livingstone. ISBN 0-443-3589-X.

The two most notable features of this book are its multiple authorship (no less than 62 authors) and its organisation into sections based on normal structure and function and general pathological processes rather than primarily on a topographic basis. Thus there is a 219 page opening section with chapters on normal morphology, histochemistry, epithelial kinetics, lymphoid tissue, and the immune system and microflora by authorities in the fields. These are a valuable source of up to date information, not otherwise readily available in one place. Particularly noteworthy is a 43 page chapter on the vasculature and lymphatic drainage.

The rest of the book is less successful and suffers from splitting and reduplication of topics which inevitably result from the self-imposed handicap of having to adhere to the disease-based organisation. There is a key section of 184 pages on "primary inflammatory disorders and disturbances of digestive function", encompassing pathology from the oesophagus to the anus in multiple, often short, chapters. Most topics are adequately covered, apart from ileal pouch pathology which seems to have been missed. Colonic tuberculosis also gets rather scant attention.

The method of organisation is least satisfactory in the 176 page section on tumours. By making the reasonably good index work overtime, it is possible to locate the information required, but casualties to the rigid splitting are the dysplasias of various epithelia, which, although included either

with inflammation (such as gastritis) or with tumours, receive surprisingly terse treatment. This is particularly true of anal dysplasia (granular cell tumour of the anus receives twice the space); I feel that the book may have been too long in gestation to catch the recent surge of interest in AIN and HPV. It also seems extraordinary that carcinomas of oesophagus, stomach, small intestine, and large bowel should be included in chapters at the very end of the book, entitled "other tumours of the oesophagus", etc. While most of these chapters are authoritative, this reviewer felt that those on carcinomas of anus and small bowel were less useful than they should be for a contemporary book of this size. Such a criticism cannot be made of the chapter on gut-associated lymphoid tumours (not included in "other tumours" but with pride of place on its own). This topic uniquely lends itself to the book's approach, and is exceptionally well written and well illustrated. Other notable successes are the coverage of Hirschsprung's disease and chapters on every conceivable form of volvulus, hernia, and obstruction due to mechanical abnormalities. The chapter on neuromuscular abnormalities of small and large intestine, although erudite, reveals that there is much to learn before pathologists can usefully contribute to solving these problems.

Technically, the illustrations are variable in quality. There are many excellent gross and histological photographs as well as good line diagrams. Surprising omissions are a gross picture of a solitary ulcer of the rectum, and photomicrographs of an inflammatory cloacogenic polyp, and an inflammatory fibroid polyp. The text is, despite the above reservations, written in good uniform grammatical style, with few typographical errors, a tribute to the editor.

In summary, this very multiauthor book is of predictably variable quality. It is a brave attempt to cover comprehensively the entire subject, but, as with an early edition of an encyclopedia, it has a long way to go before it can be regarded as a reference book coherent and complete enough to compete with the exceptionally good competition ("Morson and Dawson") which it closely matches in price and size.

IC TALBOT

Surgical Pathology of the Breast. K Rogers, AJ Coup. (Pp 143; £39.50.) Butterworths. 1990. ISBN 0-7236-90965-9.

The stated aim of the authors is to provide a book for undergraduate and postgraduate students in medicine and for trainee pathologists. The book attempts to put together practical surgical points, physical signs, and symptoms of breast disease and to correlate these with pathology.

In this aim I feel the book does succeed in giving a multidisciplinary view of breast disease. It does, however, suffer from a few problems. The first and most major being the omission of mammographic and ultrasound correlation with the entities described. Secondly, while the colour plates are good, many of the black and white histological photographs suffer from a rather peculiar variation in lighting: some of these are so low power that some of the histological features are not readily seen. The book also suffers

from the lack of references, and some of the factual content varies from the currently accepted physiology and pathology, albeit in a minor way.

It is a shame that the authors have not followed the terminology for breast disease recommended for use in the National Screening Programme at a time when a major attempt to standardise terminology is being made. In summary, this book will be useful for undergraduate and postgraduate students, but its usefulness is limited as a text for pathologists and particularly those involved with breast screening because of the absence of adequate radiographic correlation.

C WELLS

IgE, Mast Cells and the Allergic Response. Ciba Foundation Symposium 147. (Pp 282; £32.50.) John Wiley. 1989. ISBN 0-471-92309-5.

This book documents papers presented at a Ciba Foundation Symposium in April 1989. There are 14 scientific chapters that together approach the subject of the Symposium in terms of immunology, epidemiology, pharmacology, molecular biology and genetics. Each paper offers a good synopsis of current thinking, as well as concentrating on detailed experimental data from each author's own work.

The presentation throughout is clear and, although selective, the references given are quite adequate. It is commendable that a significant number of 1989 publications are quoted. A particular bonus is the quality of the discussion (reported after each paper), which in many cases is as interesting to read as the paper itself, and contains important further information which puts the subject of each presentation in perspective.

Although mainly directed at a scientific audience, the studies described offer a valuable update to clinicians and pathologists interested in this field. For those researching in this area this book represents a most valuable text.

LW POULTER

Clinical Cytotechnology. DV Coleman, PA Chapman. (Pp 484; £65.) Butterworths. 1989. ISBN 0-407-00176-X.

The production of this book is a sign that clinical cytology has come to a certain age. The distillation of knowledge about the subject into an introductory textbook edited by a professor of cytopathology and a chief MLSO for a district hospital befits the huge impact on the practice of pathology that cytological diagnosis has achieved. The book follows the mould of student pathology texts and attempts to cover huge areas of general pathology, preparation, diagnosis, special investigations, and aspects of laboratory organisation. As an introduction for junior cytotechnologists, or for preparation for the new examinations, it should find a useful place. Some of the technical sections are very good. For practising pathologists, senior experienced cytology MLSOs, or the final MRCPPath candidate, consulting this book is

likely to prove as frustrating as it is helpful. There is insufficient detail for a comprehensive bench reference book and the didactic approach excludes any critical discussions of the role of cytology in diagnosis or screening. For a guide to the practice of cytology which evaluates its methods alongside other investigations in coping with clinical problems we must await the next age of cytology.

D JENKINS

Danish Medical Bulletin. Vol. 37 Supplement No 1. Medical Aspects of Torture. Free of Charge for foreign Medical Institutions on request. Danish Medical Association, Trondhjems gate 9, DK-2100, Copenhagen. Denmark.

This short monograph by a leading expert in the study of torture and its sequelae represents an excellent source of information on the types of torture encountered today, and the effects and the participation by members of the medical profession in such inhumane acts.

Although it might be thought that exposure to torture victims in medical practice in the United Kingdom would be rare and confined to forensic specialists, 2% of the cases presented come from this country—a sobering thought indeed.

D ROUSE

The Cystic Kidney. Ed KD Gardner, J Bernstein. (Pp 444; £95.) Kluwer Academic Publishers. 1990. ISBN 0-7923-039-2.

Cystic diseases of the kidney are a source of both interest and worry to pathologists. Their classification is often confusing and, although some types are familiar, others are rare and poorly recognised. Their widely differing clinical and genetic implications, however, demand accurate diagnosis and interpretation.

This excellent and compact volume is a compendium of helpful and up to date information on this difficult subject. It is multiauthored, the contributors being well recognised experts, mostly from North America. It is set out as a series of essays, each prefaced by a useful synopsis. The first two sections cover the pathogenesis of renal cysts and include much fascinating recent work with a stimulating contribution by Reeders on the exciting advances in molecular pathology.

The other sections are more practical, covering classification, systemic manifestations, clinical management, and the increasingly important sphere of diagnostic imaging. The last section gives detailed descriptions of the various types of renal cystic disease.

This book is highly recommended for departmental libraries, although the price might deter individual purchasers without a special interest. It can be read in toto by those seeking education or studying for the MRCP-Path and, selectively, by those needing help for a specifying problem.

RA RISDON