

Coppleson and Bevan Reid. (Pp. xii + 321; 172 figures. £5.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1967.

This book is not a guide to the practice of cytology, it gives the correlation with colposcopy and histology needed by pathologists, and particularly by those who practice gynaecology at its best. The scientific management of stage 0 and stage 1A carcinoma of the cervix is fully described. Appearances by all methods are also given for all ages from the foetus to the menopause.

With such a wealth of material it may appear churlish to make minor criticisms. The occasional lapse from lucid description to the confusion of views of different authors is unfortunate. Some day this confusion will disappear from the realization of three facts: (1) carcinoma in situ occurs in many parts of the body besides the cervix, only the cervical lesion has such a confused nomenclature; (2) attempts at definitions in cancer work are apt to be futile because of the enormous range of histological appearances for the 'same' lesion; (3) when a difficult section is sent to six pathologists it is common to get five or six different reports, and because the lesion itself can never be wrong this can only mean that five or six of the pathologists were.

In recent times I have heard of six cases of invasive carcinoma of the vagina in my locality following incomplete removal by conization of a cervical carcinoma in situ. The passage of time is now making it clear that these cases are commoner than the authors realize; it is therefore dangerous to encourage those who think carcinoma in situ can be treated lightly. For the same reason the authors go a little too far in discounting the danger of lesions in the cervical canal.

This book is essential reading for pathologists in charge of departments of gynaecological pathology and cytology.

G. R. OSBORN

HUMAN HISTOLOGY 2nd ed. By B. Cruickshank, T. C. Dodds, and D. L. Gardner. (Pp. viii + 359; 353 figures. 84s.) Edinburgh and London: E. and S. Livingstone Ltd. 1968.

This book is intended for medical students and consists of short descriptions of the histology of the various systems interspersed with colour photographs of normal human tissue. Useful explanatory diagrams accompany the photographs thus avoiding the usual disfiguring letters on the actual plates.

The authors also had in mind the training of pathologists and laboratory technicians and the numerous special stains depicted provide normal for comparison with pathological sections. An unusual and welcome feature of this book is the illustration of physiological changes in endometrium, placenta and breast, in particular lactating breast, a diagnostic hazard for the young pathologist.

The colour reproduction is particularly accurate in the haemopoietic system and the two pages of artefacts are a useful addition. Although, for the most part the photographs are good, some of the low-power views are badly blurred, apparently the result of a slight printing fault which will no doubt be cured in future copies.

This volume is not a textbook of histology and

suggestions are given for further reading. In the preface to the first edition, the authors aimed to provide 'a baseline of normal structure' for pathologists in training and to help technicians to appreciate staining techniques. In the second edition, they have to a large extent succeeded.

M. GILLESPIE

THE PLACENTA IN TWIN PREGNANCY By S. J. Strong and G. Corney. (Pp. xvi + 134; illustrated. £5 5s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1967.

In the foreword, Chassar Moir considers this book to be a future 'classic'. Such praise is fully justified. The authors have diligently reviewed the relevant literature, much of which has not been readily available. Colour plates from original articles of earlier workers are beautifully reproduced in the book in addition to excellent illustrations by the present authors.

There is a wealth of information of value to obstetricians, geneticists, paediatricians, and pathologists. Haematological problems encountered in multiple pregnancy are fully discussed, including the 'placental transfusion' syndrome. Procedure for the effective examination of twin placentae is described with particular reference to injection techniques for adequate demonstration of the vasculature. The morbid anatomist sporadically expected to pronounce on placental structure will find the work most helpful and the high standard of writing and publication should result in a wide following of appreciative readers.

CLAUD W. TAYLOR

THE EVOLUTION OF DIFFERENTIATION By William S. Bullough. (Pp. vi + 206; illustrated. 45s.) London and New York: Academic Press. 1967.

All the cells in an animal or plant have the same content of genes, yet the differentiation leading to diversity of structure and function is enormous. Differentiation can be traced back to the bacteria, where one cell can switch on or off the synthesis of some enzyme in response to environmental conditions. This book discusses the mechanisms by which the simple differentiation of function in unicellular organisms like bacteria has evolved into the complex differentiation of higher plants and animals. The system of gene repressors studied in bacteria is seen as the origin of the variety of chemical messengers, including the hormones, that control cell differentiation and function, and it is considered that in most cases these messengers act through an influence on the genetic material in the target cell. 'The evolution of higher forms of life has depended on the increasing complexity of the linkages within groups of structural genes, and second, on the increasing number of regulator genes and the increasing complexity of the linkages between them.'

This is a fascinating book that any pathologist with a claim to be a biologist will read with enjoyment and intellectual profit. If it offers him little help with his daily work at the bench, it will provide abundant material for educated conversation in the common room.

R. E. O. WILLIAMS