

Book reviews

LIVER BIOPSY INTERPRETATION By Peter Scheuer. (Pp. 138; illustrations in colour and in black and white. 85s.) London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cassell. 1968.

In her foreword Professor Sheila Sherlock says this book contains everything that anyone should know about liver biopsy. This is a sweeping statement but near the truth. What a splendid effort the author has made to cover the difficult material so often obtained by needle biopsy! Many pathologists have to revise their attitude to liver sections if they have been used only to larger biopsies or postmortem material. The finer points of early biliary cirrhosis, when no fully developed bile duct lesion is present in the biopsy, are discussed and the lesions shown as they develop into the full picture. Viral hepatitis with the varied appearances at the different stages and intensity of the disease is well illustrated in colour. Many lesions are also shown in reticulin preparations so important to the diagnosis and prognosis of diseases of the liver. There are, in fact, 16 colour plates, 56 colour illustrations, and innumerable black and white photographs. These illustrations are uniformly excellent and most helpful. The technical section is brief but provides good advice on the sort of routine staining methods recommended.

The book is probably the best yet produced for the guidance of the pathologist who has to interpret liver biopsy findings in order to guide the physician in his treatment of the patient. It is no exaggeration to say that it must be in the library of every pathology department.

A. G. SIGNY

SURGICAL PATHOLOGY OF GYNECOLOGIC DISEASE By Cary M. Dougherty. (Pp. 704; 671 figures. 327s.) New York and London: Harper and Row, Hoeber Medical Division. 1968.

This book has resulted from the study of considerable hospital material available to the editor, who is a clinical professor of obstetrics and gynaecology. It is designed as 'a course outline' for undergraduates and postgraduates. Classified anatomically, each section is divided into subsections, many of which seem to overlap and to be repetitive. Pictures of the gross appearances of specimens are generally absent though there are a few line drawings; photomicrographs, on the other hand, are numerous. Many of the low-power magnifications are excellent but others convey little information. The general layout of the illustrations, so important in this type of book, is untidy.

In the text, specific information is sometimes lacking; for example, under 'Granulosa cell tumour', 'a known malignant potential' and 'a slight risk of recurrence' are quoted but there is no indication of late recurrence. Under 'Dysgerminoma', it merely states that there is 'a moderate degree of malignancy'. Gynandroblastoma is given more space than Krukenberg tumour, the latter not even illustrated.

There seem to be comparatively few printer's errors. The reference on page 619 to Fig. 10/81B relates to

Krukenberg tumour but the illustration shows metastatic squamous cell carcinoma, as indicated in the caption. The index appears to be comprehensive but there are strange omissions—decidua does not seem to be mentioned. A fairly extensive list of references is given at the end of each chapter but there is little guidance in the text to further reading.

The book has many features to commend it, especially some of the illustrations. It would, however, appear to be too detailed for the average student but lacks information necessary for pathologists.

CLAUD W. TAYLOR

THE OVARY Edited by Harold C. Mack. (Pp. xi + 215; illustrated. \$12) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1968.

The well presented volume comprises the 11 main contributions to a symposium with several from workers of world-wide renown. Most chapters consist of a full though brief review of known recent work and usually embody fundamental original work of the contributor.

The content is generally investigative, employing newer techniques of bioassay, immunology, enzyme and endocrine chemistry, and the approach is often physiological and clinical. It is disappointing to find developmental anomalies are regarded as 'ovarian pathology' and it is understandable that a consideration of the relation of embryology to tumours of the ovary can only be cursive.

The critical appraisal of the ovarian and endocrine patterns of what is regarded as the Stein Leventhal syndrome of two types, adrenal and ovarian, steers away from the conventional accepted views. Another notable contribution from the originator of induced ovulation should be consulted by all those engaged in monitoring patients needing this treatment.

This volume offers interesting and stimulating reading but with certain exceptions can be no more than a useful reference for most clinical pathologists.

MAGNUS HAINES

CLINICAL PATHOLOGY IN MENTAL RETARDATION By R. D. Eastham and J. Jancar. (Pp. 364; 78 illustrations. 65s.) Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1968.

This comparatively small book, the product of collaboration between a clinical pathologist with a major interest in biochemistry and a psychiatrist, is encyclopaedic in scope: a positive mine of information hitherto available only scattered throughout a wide and enormously varied literature.

The style is terse, almost telegraphic. The emphasis, as the title implies, is predominantly pathological, but there is sufficient clinical description to make the subject matter intelligible to the non-psychiatrist. Details are given not only of the clinical pathology findings which are currently of value in diagnosis and the assessment of response to treatment where feasible but also of the