Book reviews

FETAL MALFORMATIONS CAUSED BY AMNIOTIC RUPTURE DURING GESTATION. By Richard Torpin. (Pp. 159 + xii; illustrated. \$11.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1969.

This monograph is concerned with foetal malformations which are thought to result from amniotic rupture during pregnancy. The first two-thirds of the text are devoted to the consideration of a wide variety of such malformations, ranging from gross deformities in which there may be direct attachment of the placenta and its membranes to the foetal skull, to less serious deformities such as club-foot, clubhand, and syndactylism. The majority of cases referred to in this section have been culled from the literature, and illustrations consist of line drawings which are not always very informative. An attempt has been made to separate malformations resulting from genetic malfunction or teratogenic agents from those of a more mechanical origin consequent upon amnion rupture. It is thought that the latter may occur at any stage during gestation, and although the amniotic membrane may be severely damaged the chorion remains intact. Remnants of the detached amnion, often in the form of constricting bands, may attach themselves to parts of the foetus and may even lead to amputation of a limb.

Another consequence of amniotic rupture may be a transient oligohydramnios. Compression effects of the uterine wall on the foetus in the absence of a cushion of amniotic fluid are alleged to result in a high incidence of clubfoot deformities in these cases. This is closely analogous to the theories regarding clubfoot deformities held by the late Sir Denis Browne.

The remainder of the monograph is devoted to a description of a method devised by the author for the study of the placenta and its membrane after delivery, and a fairly detailed description of 14 cases of foetal deformity studied personally. This section is well illus-

trated with clinical photographs, radiographs, and photomicrographs of normal and abnormal amniotic membrane.

The author has rightly drawn attention to a fascinating series of lesions which may culminate in severe foetal malformation or even intrauterine death of the foetus. It is possible, however, that not all the deformities result only from rupture of the amniotic membrane, and the cause of the latter remains obscure.

A. E. CLAIREAUX

MALIGNANT LYMPHOMAS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT By M. Jacobs. In 'Recent Results in Cancer Research', Vol. 16. (Pp. vii + 48; 7 figures. DM.18). Berlin, Heidelberg, and New York: Springer-Verlag. 1968.

The author has compressed into 44 pages most of the essential information about the common lymphomas. The subject is treated with a deep historical perspective—31 out of 95 references precede 1930—leading up to an admirable, concise summary of modern ideas on histological classification and staging. The prospect of general and fairly permanent agreement in these aspects of the lymphomas gives this part of the book a lasting value.

The same is unlikely to be the case with sections devoted to management where practice is changing and finality is many years away. The author gives an excellent account of the radiotherapeutic controversy in Hodgkin's disease but is less than adequate in dealing with chemotherapy. Drugs such as vinblastine, steroids, and methyl hydrazine are scarcely mentioned and there is no reference to the principles of combination chemotherapy.

Thus, despite many virtues, this presentation is insufficient and already out of date as a guide to the complete management of patients with lymphomatous disease. It compels one to question the real value of monographs of this sort. The 'Union internationale contre le cancer' have no less than 27 in preparation. How many will be of more than ephemeral value? Will any of them perform a service not already supplied by existing journals and new editions of textbooks? And if they do not, are they perhaps more of a liability than an asset upon the overloaded library shelves?

H. E. M. KAY

VISTAS IN CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES Edited by J. Claude Bennett. (Pp. xii + 314). Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1968.

Dr Bennett and 11 co-authors have aimed to 'acquaint young physicians with research opportunities in connective tissue diseases and to make them excited about this work'. They have succeeded admirably and this collection of 11 essays should appeal to all laboratory workers concerned with connective tissue.

Inevitably, there is bias in the selection of subjects for critical discussion. Immunology rates six of 11 chapters (152 of 268 text pages). The remaining five chapters are very diverse. The outstanding contribution (in terms of the Editor's stated aims) is a sparkling account by McCarty of his researches on urate and pyrophosphate crystal arthritis, an account which is sufficiently enthralling to be recommended reading for medical students as well as researchers. The kinetics of antigen/antibody

Letters to the Editor—continued

reaction to *S. paratyphi A* as indicative of previous vaccination; when monovalent vaccines are used, this marker is no longer available. The finding of high-titre typhoid antibody, whether or not accompanied by other antibody, is not an indication, in itself, for initiating epidemiological investigations; careful and prompt enquiry into vaccination history is required. It should be borne in mind that the patient's general practitioner or physician is not always *au fait* with the full vaccination history, as vaccinations may be advised and undertaken by firms or employing authorities or airline medical services. The patient should be asked about all previous immunizations.

ROSALIND HURLEY

Secretary, Microbiology Committee,
Association of Clinical Pathologists

interactions (Siskind and Levine) and the biology of complement (Stroud) receive clear, detailed treatment but these are perhaps topics too technical for the book's purpose. Osteoporosis (Krane) is discussed on a relatively superficial level and Reiter's syndrome (Sharp) is over-balanced with history. Although the essays are said not to be reviews, the 1,183 references provide a valuable collection of sources.

The publishers have been liberal in allowing 35 pages for a repetitive index of titles and a volume of essays does not require an additional nine-page author index. The quality of printing on art paper is very high. I found only four typographical errors.

D. L. GARDNER

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE By Sir George Pickering. 2nd ed. (Pp. 728; illustrated. 120s.) London: J. and A. Churchill Ltd. 1968.

In this revised edition, the book has been enlarged and brought up to date.

The description of Charcot-Bouchard aneurysms, the main cause of cerebral haemorrhage, will be of interest to many morbid anatomists as their existence has so recently been rediscovered; the tables on racial and geographical variations in blood pressure values are also of interest.

The section on renal diseases has been widened and brought up to date with a full discussion of the present-day literature and current concepts on aetiology and pathogenesis. The detailed descriptions of the vascular lesions found in diabetes, especially of those in the kidney and retina, are well worth studying.

Excellent sections deal with the pathological findings in, and methods of investigations of, Cushing's syndrome, chromaffin cell tumours, primary and secondary aldosteronism, and renal artery stenosis.

Coarctation of the aorta and the difficult subject of hypertension and pregnancy are also described.

Finally, current treatments of different types of hypertension are dealt with very fully, and, although not essential knowledge, every well informed pathologist wants to know what treatment implies, if only to be able to interpret postmortem summaries correctly.

In conclusion this is a book which all working pathologists should read in detail and keep on their bookshelves.

BRIAN MCKINNEY

ATLAS OF HAEMATOLOGY 2nd ed. By G. A. McDonald T. C. Dodds, and B. Cruickshank. (Pp. 203; illustrated 105s.) Edinburgh and London: E. and S. Livingstone Ltd. 1968.

Many atlases have been produced which attempt to depict the cells of the blood and the marrow in a form which will make them recognizable in 'routine' stained films. The trouble with so many atlases has been that the colour reproduction has been poor, many of the examples have been uncharacteristic, and the student is not given a sense of perspective of the different cells portrayed. The authors of this atlas have overcome most of the pitfalls. In the first place they have realized the importance of maintaining a standard magnification. They use $\times 1,200$

magnification throughout for cells, which perhaps is slightly higher than most people use, but as long as the magnification is kept standard the learner can relate the picture to his own microscope. Secondly, the colour is excellent and fairly uniform and throughout they have chosen excellent examples of the cells commonly seen.

The atlas has some examples of histopathological lesions of conditions seen by the haematologist, such as lymph nodes, bone marrow, liver, spleen, and gastric mucosa. These could perhaps be more valuable if they included more examples of aspirates (Fig. 60) and trephine biopsies (Fig. 63) of sternum or iliac crest in different conditions which is, after all, the material most commonly used, and biopsies of liver, stomach, and jejunum which are important diagnostic procedures often carried out by the haematologist for confirmation of blood and marrow findings. Valuable and welcome additions are a large number of photographs, still at $\times 1,200$, under phase contrast (regarded by some as the poor man's electron microscope) and one electron microscopic study of a ringed sideroblast.

I believe that every junior haematologist and haematology technician will need this book to enable him to classify his cells with confidence and authority.

A. G. SIGNY

BOOKS RECEIVED

HANDBUCH MIKROSKOPISCHEN ANATOMIE DES MENSCHEN By W. v. Möllendorff and W. Barmann. Band V. Teil 4. (Pp. vii + 384; illustrated. DM 218.00.) Berlin: Springer-Verlag. 1969.

HANDBUCH DER KINDERHEILKUNDE Edited by F. Schmidt and H. Asperger. Band VIII/I. Neurologie, Psychologie und Psychiatrie. (Pp. xix + 1060; illustrated. DM 385.00.) Berlin: Springer-Verlag. 1969.

HANDBUCH DERMIKROSKOPISCHEN ANATOMIE DES MENSCHEN Band VI. Teil 6. (Pp. viii + 968; illustrated. DM 486.00.)

PATHOLOGISCHE PHYSIOLOGIE By F. Gross-Brockhoff and others. (Pp. xxxi + 797; illustrated. DM 96.00.) Berlin: Springer-Verlag. 1969.

ATLAS OF MENTAL RETARDATION SYNDROMES By Sidney S. Gellis and Murray Feingold. (Pp. x + 188; illustrated. \$5.50.) Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. 1969.

METHODS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN EXPERIMENTAL PATHOLOGY Volume 4. Examples of Descriptive and Functional Morphology. Edited by E. Bajusz and G. Jasmin. (Pp. iv + 256; illustrated. 156s.) Basel: S. Karger. 1969.

NOTICE

Broadsheet 64, prepared by the Association of Clinical Pathologists, and entitled 'Histochemical enzyme techniques', by I. M. P. Dawson and M. I. Filipe, can be made more useful to readers if they are in possession of the eight colour transparencies illustrating the Broadsheet. These colour transparencies can be obtained from Dr R. C. B. Pugh, St Paul's Hospital, Endell Street, London WC2, price £1, including postage.